



CAMPUS LIVING: Boxers Jermain Taylor and Jeff Lacy to square off at Memorial Gym. SEE PAGE 3

PIPPEN: Students should recycle knowledge as well as bottles and paper. SEE PAGE 4

Veterans Day activities commemorate Iraq War



LAUREN KOENIG / The Vanderbilt Hustler

4,192 flags spotted Alumni Lawn on Tuesday Nov. 11 to remind students of Veterans Day. The Office of Active Citizenship and Service and East House sponsored the memorial.

by **LAUREN KOENIG**
News Contributor

Students walking across Alumni Lawn on Veterans Day morning were surprised to see what appeared to be a forest of American flags that had sprung up overnight.

East House and the Office of Active Citizenship and Service sponsored the Iraq Memorial, which consisted of exactly 4,192 flags.

The number of flags corresponded to the number of soldiers who have lost their lives in Iraq.

Sophomore Naveed Nanjee explained how he became involved in the creation of the Memorial.

"Last year was the fifth anniversary of the Iraq War. I heard that the toll of fallen

soldiers was over 4,000. To me, it was an arbitrary number, nothing tangible," he said.

This year, Nanjee said, he decided to make it more "visible."

The flags were planted during the night and early Tuesday morning. The entire process took four hours.

According to Nanjee, not enough is done on campus for Veterans Day. He hoped the memorial would influence "students to take a moment to see that people are dying for our country. That one moment is really important," he said.

In addition to a color guard presentation, Virginia Spini, manager of the Operation of Enduring Freedom Clinic, spoke about her experiences.



LAUREN KOENIG / The Vanderbilt Hustler

The color guard presents the colors to begin the memorial event in Sarratt Student Center on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

Donations were collected throughout the day to benefit the VU Hospital and the Clinic. Donors received

stickers printed with the names of soldiers who had served in the Iraq. ■



Check out this week's Versus for an interview with Vampire Weekend. Lead Singer Ezra Koenig talks life after college and the New York band's success.

FULL SECTION INSIDE

ACADEMICS

Vanderbilt to become leader in minority Ph.D.s

by **ALLIE MORRIS**
Science & Medicine Specialist

Vanderbilt is poised to become the leading producer of minority physics Ph.D.s in the country in a field that, on average, produces only one minority Ph.D. every nine years.

This new No. 1 rank is due to the success of a recently established Vanderbilt-Fisk Ph.D. Bridge program that has attracted 31 students since its start in 2004, 29 of which are underrepresented minority students.

"(The program) gives us a leadership role ... that really allows us to stand out ... because we have solved a really tough problem that none of our peer institutions have been able to do," said Vanderbilt Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy Keivan Stassun, a director of the program.

The bridge program allows students to complete their master's degrees in physics, chemistry, biology or engineering at Fisk University and then track into the Vanderbilt Ph.D. program. While completing a master's at Fisk, students have the

opportunity to take classes and do research at Vanderbilt.

"When the time comes to apply to the Ph.D. program, the faculty knows the candidate ... there is a kind of advantage built in," Stassun said.

Stassun said the idea for the program started about five years ago and was aided by Fisk's proximity to Vanderbilt.

"We have a leading research university with a strong Ph.D. program, and right next door we have a historically black university with a just as long tradition of excellence," Stassun said.

According to Stassun, in 2010, when the first students complete the bridge program, Vanderbilt will become the No. 1 producer of physics Ph.D.s for minority students.

According to the Bridge Program Web site, in 2006 a total of 12 black U.S. citizens were awarded with Ph.D.s in physics out of a total of 637 U.S. citizens.

"By participating and succeeding in this bridge program, I feel that I am sending a message to other minorities that it is possible to do science, to be part of the great modern scientific discoveries," said participant Tommy Le Blanc. ■

CAMPUS LIVING

Pub lines preferred over buffet

by **NORAH SCANLAN**
Campus Living Specialist

It seems Dining just can't win. After nearly two months of experimenting with a buffet, the Pub at Overcup Oak returned to its old practice of serving a la carte items for dinner. Though most students have largely welcomed this change and accept the long lines as an inevitable part of eating at the Pub, some still complain the lines are too long.

"Last semester, students complained about the lines at

dinner, (and) we attempted to fix that with a buffet," said Director of Dining Camp Howard. "(But) students had some reservations with the buffet. They wanted all menu items made available."

Because Dining adjusts to student requests, Dining Services adapted by terminating the buffet and offering the lunch menu, along with some additional specials, for dinner.

Following the discontinuation of the buffet on Oct. 17, Howard said Dining has received excellent feedback, with students expressing

happiness with the change. "I'm really glad they don't offer the buffet anymore," said sophomore James Zack. "The food is worth the wait."

Despite the general positive reaction to the change, some students say they miss the convenience of the buffet.

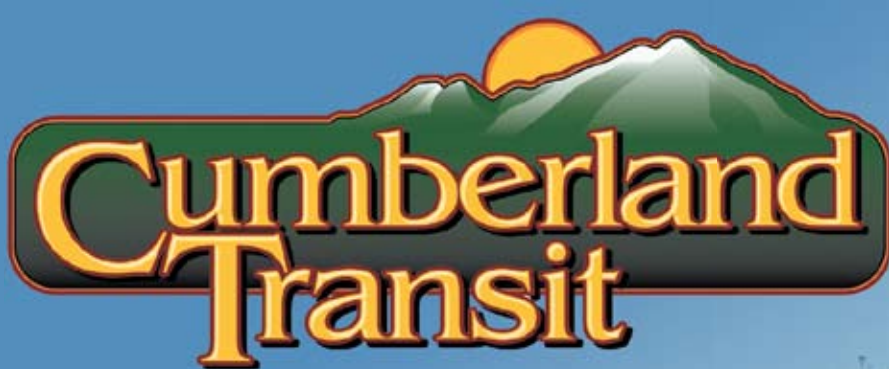
"I thought the buffet was good just because it was so convenient and quick. From my past experiences with lunch, it took a long time and I'd assume the wait would be just as long for dinner," said sophomore Erica Zanghellini. ■



SAM KIM / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Juniors Benton Payne, Guy Kopsombut, and Vincent Brodbeck eat dinner at the Pub.

SPORTS: Freshmen men's basketball players are sized up; plus, former Vandy pitcher David Price speaks out. SEE PAGE 6



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SNAPSHOTS

compiled by LAUREN KOENIG

WEATHER

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TODAY



HIGH **58**, LOW **52**
Rain Showers

THURSDAY



HIGH **65**, LOW **50**
Rain Showers

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SERVICE GUIDE

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BACK ISSUES

Back issues are available in Sarratt 130 during business hours.

NEWS BRIEFS

Gov't to announce new loan aid effort to help homeowners

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government and the mortgage industry are set to announce the most sweeping effort yet to help troubled homeowners by speeding up the process for renegotiating hundreds of thousands of delinquent loans held by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

The Federal Housing Finance Agency, which seized control of the two mortgage finance companies in September, scheduled a press conference for 2 p.m. EST. Scheduled to attend were officials from the Treasury Department, Wells Fargo & Co., the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Hope Now, an alliance of mortgage companies organized by the Bush administration last year.

An industry official who worked on the plan said the new approach will allow lenders to modify more delinquent loans by establishing broad criteria to speed up the process. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because details had not been announced.

4,300-year-old pyramid discovered in Egypt

SAQQARA, Egypt (AP)—Egypt's chief archaeologist has announced the discovery of a 4,300-year-old pyramid in Saqqara, the sprawling necropolis and burial site of the rulers of ancient Memphis.

The pyramid is said to belong to Queen Sesheshet, the mother of King Teti who was the founder of the 6th Dynasty of Egypt's Old Kingdom.

Egypt's antiquities chief Zahi Hawass made the announcement Tuesday at the site in Saqqara, about 12 miles south of Cairo.

Hawass' team has been excavating the site for two years. He says the discovery was only made two months ago when it became clear that the 16-foot-tall structure uncovered from the sand was a pyramid.

Hawass says the new pyramid is the 118th discovered so far in Egypt.

Obama to mark Veterans Day with wreath-laying

CHICAGO (AP)—President-elect Obama planned to honor fallen troops Tuesday, taking a short break from his primary task of mapping out his administration to mark Veterans Day.

The Democrat was slated to lay a wreath in Chicago, accompanied by Tammy Duckworth, a disabled Iraq war veteran and 2006 failed congressional candidate who now is the Illinois governor's veterans affairs director.

Aside from the brief public appearance, Obama planned to huddle in private with top advisers planning for the transfer of presidential power in January.

His aides say no Cabinet positions are to be announced this week, though White House staff positions may come later in the week.

Aides say Obama talks with transition chief John Podesta and other transition committee members several times a day, as well as with Rahm Emanuel, the Illinois congressman who was tapped for White House chief of staff.

Oil falls below \$59, gasoline continues plunge

HOUSTON (AP)—Retail gasoline prices dipped for a 17th week since July 4, falling below \$2 a gallon in a number of states and as low as \$1.77 in Des Moines, Iowa.

While consumers, worried about a weak job market and slumping investments, are grateful for the price relief, there are indications they are hanging on to the money that they are not putting in the gas tank.

Oil prices hit a 20-month low Tuesday as Wall Street offered yet more evidence that consumers have gone into hiding.

Retail gasoline prices fell to a national average of \$2.22 a gallon, dragged down by the falling price of crude, which now costs 60 percent less per barrel than it did in mid-July.

Light, sweet crude for December delivery fell more than 5 percent, or \$3.25, to \$59.16 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. In earlier electronic trading, crude fell to \$58.32, its lowest point since March 2007.

Oil prices fell two days ahead of a report from the International Energy Agency, which some analysts expect will cut its 2009 oil demand forecast for the third consecutive month.

Palin wouldn't oppose seeking high office again

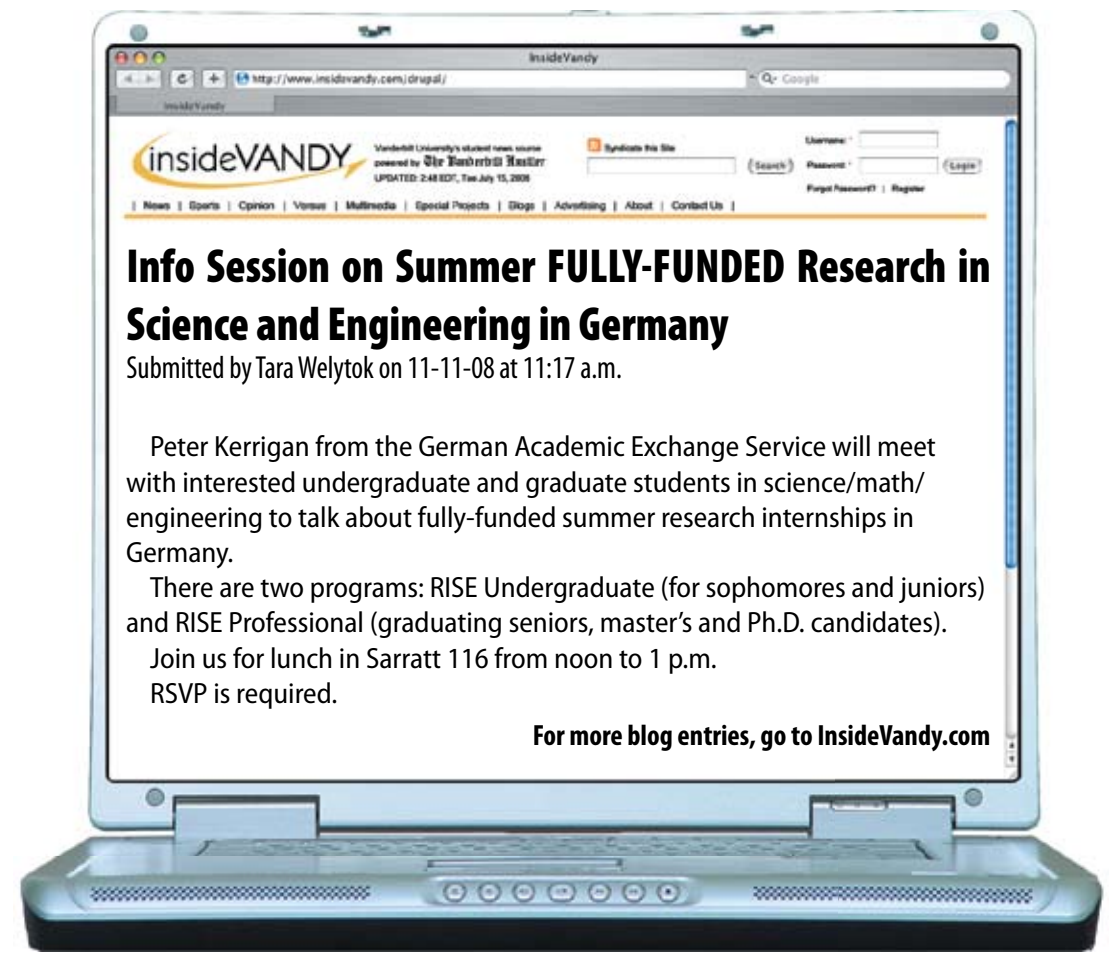
WASILLA, Alaska (AP)—Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin says she wouldn't hesitate to run for the presidency in four years if it's God's will, even though she never thought Campaign 2008 would be "as brutal a ride as it turned out to be."

In a series of interviews in the wake of last Tuesday's elections, Palin said she had no problem with Republican presidential nominee John McCain, but that she resents rumors she said were spread about her and her family by the Arizona Republican's aides. She emphatically denied that she was a drag on the GOP ticket.

"I think the economic collapse had a heckuva lot more to do with the campaign's collapse than me personally," the governor said in an interview broadcast Tuesday on NBC's "Today" show.

Palin also said "There were a lot of times I wanted to shout out, 'Hey, wait a minute, it's not true.' It's pretty brutal."

FROM THE BLOG



Info Session on Summer FULLY-FUNDED Research in Science and Engineering in Germany

Submitted by Tara Welytok on 11-11-08 at 11:17 a.m.

Peter Kerrigan from the German Academic Exchange Service will meet with interested undergraduate and graduate students in science/math/engineering to talk about fully-funded summer research internships in Germany.

There are two programs: RISE Undergraduate (for sophomores and juniors) and RISE Professional (graduating seniors, master's and Ph.D. candidates). Join us for lunch in Sarratt 116 from noon to 1 p.m.

RSVP is required.

For more blog entries, go to InsideVandy.com

SNAPSHOT

BAREFOOT IN THE PARK



NICOLE MANDEL / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Junior Kelly Quindlen enjoys a book and the last of the year's warmth underneath a tree in between classes.

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CAMPUS LIVING

HBO brings professional boxing to Memorial

by ABRAHAM HANSON
News Contributor

Boxers Jermain Taylor and Jeff Lacy will fight in the internationally televised HBO Super Middleweight eliminator this Saturday at Memorial Gym.

Publicized as "All or Nothing," the HBO boxing special will feature celebrity sportscasters Jim Lampley, Emanuel Steward and Larry Merchant, who will deliver ringside commentary while HBO cameras broadcast live to millions of viewers in 52 countries.

Former Vanderbilt football player and Peabody graduate Chris Gaines is among the architects of this one night event.

"Nashville's never been hotter," Gaines said. "First it was the presidential debate at Belmont, and now it's Taylor and Lacy going head to head for a shot at the championship."

Gaines credits his professional success to his undergraduate education and his experience on the Vanderbilt football team as wide receiver.

"Vanderbilt prepared me for a lot of things and promotions is just one facet," Gaines said.

According to Gaines, he was influential in bringing the match, Nashville's first in 15 years, to his alma mater. He said it as an amazing opportunity to excite Nashville's strong sports tradition and to invigorate the Vanderbilt campus with a new and different event.

Event coordinators are expecting a large turnout and they see a younger audience as a source of excitement.

"I think you're going to see a lot of young people, particularly in the upper deck, and that's always good for the energy. And this is the biggest fight to hit Nashville in years. It's going to be a big event," said principal promoter Lou DiBella.

The match will start 9:15 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 15. Tickets for the event are on sale at all Ticketmaster locations. Vanderbilt students, faculty and staff can receive a 25 percent discount on admission with identification. ■



LAURA RAUCH / AP Photo



CHRIS O'NEARA / AP Photo

"All or Nothing" will pit Jermain Taylor, left, against Jeff Lacy, right, on Sat. Nov. 15 at 9:15 p.m.. The event will take place in Memorial Gym. Tickets available through Ticketmaster.

LEADERSHIP

Desserts with Kirkland mingles students, administrators

by LILY CHEN
Leadership Specialist

No topic was off-limits for students and administrators who attended Desserts with Kirkland on Tuesday afternoon.

"Our goal is to give an opportunity for students and all levels of administration to come and have an informal discussion," said Vanderbilt Student Government President Joseph Williams. "It's completely open door, no issue is off table."

A biannual event, Desserts with Kirkland allows students and administrators from various departments to be able to mingle and voice their thoughts and concerns.

VSG invited the entire administration to the event, among them the Director of Student Conduct, representatives from Traffic and Parking, and members of the Provost Office and the University Registrar.

Students at large and student leaders were given

the opportunity to speak with administrators about plans for their various clubs as well as voice any ideas or concerns they had.

Junior Caroline Lewis from the American Society of Civil Engineers attended the event to get administrations' feedback as well as recognition for the organization.

"We're hosting an engineering annual conference in May and a lot of different schools will be here to compete so we want to talk to administration about

concerns we have or anything they need to know about the event," Lewis said. "I think it's a great idea to get faculty more involved in what students are doing as well as their thoughts."

For faculty, the event was a place for meeting student leaders as well as colleagues.

"This event is just a great way to intersect and interact with students and maintain ongoing open dialogue," said Assistant Vice Chancellor for Business Services Frank Gladu. "An event like this allows you

to meet new people as well as reconnect with people you know. Administrators also get a chance to talk to each other and it creates a good social setting."

For Associate Provost and Dean of Students Mark Bandas, who is also one of the advisors for VSG, the event was an opportunity to meet with student leaders and learn about their concerns.

"This event has been held for a number of years, and I usually come out with some good ideas from students about how to

address certain problems and what students want," Bandas said. "It allows informal contact and to have non-structured discussion about issues and solutions."

According to Willams, this semester's Desserts with Kirkland had the highest attendance rate.

"There was vibrant conversation and the widest variety of students out there. It was successful but we could always get more students," Williams said. ■

LEADERSHIP

STAND hosts 'Rock for Darfur' to benefit Mocha Club

by KELLY JONES
News Contributor

STAND, a student-run anti-genocide group, works to not only educate and raise awareness, but also to tangibly impart change.

This semester, the group will be benefiting the Mocha Club's Sudan Regrowth Fund, which funds an orphanage in Nyamel, by hosting "Rock for Darfur." The event will take place on Nov. 13 at the Underworld, next to Chili's.

By funding the orphanage, Mocha Club provides mosquito

nets, clean water, tarps, food and medication to escapees who no longer have shelter.

Beginning at 9:30 p.m., "Rock for Darfur" will feature live music by 4 Play 7. Tickets will cost \$5 and will be sold on the Wall this week. In addition, students can purchase tickets at the door on Thursday night.

STAND works with Sudanese, Kurdish and Somali-Bantu refugees in the Nashville area who have fled their countries due to ethnic violence. Each semester, STAND holds a fundraiser to help those affected by genocide. ■

CAMPUS LIVING

Diwali celebration to showcase Hindu, Indian culture

by JUDY WANG
Academics Specialist

Masala-SACE, Vanderbilt's South Asian Cultural Exchange organization, is celebrating Diwali this Saturday with food, music and dance.

Also known as the "Festival of Lights," Diwali is one of the largest Hindu festivals and marks the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.

"Diwali is normally celebrated by wearing new clothes, eating lots of sweets, prayer and fireworks," said sophomore Akhila Yadalam.

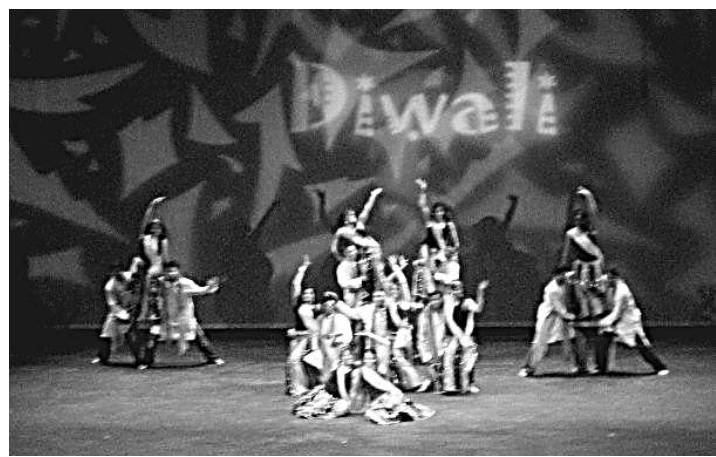
This year, Masala-SACE's annual show is titled "Vanderbilt Desi," and will showcase many aspects of Indian traditional and popular culture.

"The program consists of many

unique dances, representing the various regions of India and their distinctive style," Yadalam said. "In addition to numerous skits and acts, there will be a fashion show and delicious buffet dinner."

In preparation for the show, student performers and choreographers have shown dedication and energy, despite demanding schedules. In order to learn and perfect the dances, students have had several rehearsals every week, some even lasting until 3 a.m.

"The rehearsals are extremely fun, but definitely physically tiring," said sophomore Michelle See, a performer in the Bhangra dance. "Because our partners perform back flips and we have group stunts, our bodies would literally be



TUSHINA JAIN / photo provided

Masala-SACE members perform at the 2007 Diwali celebration at the Ingram Center.

sore for days at a time. Overall, though, it has been an amazing experience."

"Diwali 2008: Vanderbilt Desi" will be presented at Langford Auditorium at 7:30

p.m., with two full Indian dinners at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Library Lawn. Tickets can be purchased at Saratt Box Office or on the wall. ■

CAMPUS LIVING

Recycling a little bit easier

by NORAH SCANLAN
Campus Living Specialist

On Monday, in-room recycling bins were distributed by Area Maintenance Supervisors throughout the residence halls on Alumni Lawn. Now, all residence halls, with the exception of Carmichael Towers and Highland Quad, are equipped with these bins.

"Now that the recycling bins have arrived, the students can effectively do their part — recycling cans, plastic bottles and paper in all areas, and

cardboard in most areas," said Recycling Coordinator Jennifer Hackett. "In order for the program to be successful, students should keep in mind that it is a 'sort-it-yourself' program once you get to the recycling bins outside near the dumpsters."

Hackett said recycling that is not sorted will be discarded. Some students expressed excitement about Vanderbilt's increasing commitment to environmental awareness.

"I'm glad that Vanderbilt has finally started to widely distribute recycling bins. The

amount of plastic that students use and waste is appalling and any effort to make the campus greener will help alleviate the current environmental crisis," said sophomore Lily Maxwell.

Despite the availability of opportunities to recycle, as Hackett noted, the success of the program depends on student participation.

"I like (the recycling bins) because I actually recycle, but I know a lot of people just got rid of them," said sophomore Julianne McGee.

Carmichael Towers and Highland Quad did not receive

bins due to budget limitations.

Ann Nielson, Director of Housing Facilities, said, "To put recycling (bins) in all the rooms (on campus) is very expensive."

Nielson said these buildings were excluded because they already have active recycling programs that consist of large recycling bins in all of their lobbies.

If a student in a residential area, aside from Highland Quad or Carmichael Towers, did not receive a bin, the student should contact their Area Maintenance Supervisor (AMS) for one. ■

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OPINION

Nashville road rules



JUSTIN POYTHRESS
Columnist

Each city, each part of the country is going to have different expectations for what driving should look like. Nashville really is not that bad, but I suggest we put aside our partisan differences and generate some policies that will move us forward together as a country.

First of all: cell phones. I actually have no problem with people driving while on cell phones if you know it doesn't affect your driving, which is just not possible. In fact, I feel rather strongly that texting while driving is considerably safer than talking because you can take breaks to steal glances at the road, instead of having steadily divided attention.

The second safety precaution, obviously, is to prohibit female drivers. There is an old, never-repealed Tennessee law decreeing that if a female did drive an automobile, there had to be at least two men walking outside the vehicle,

waving red flags to alert other drivers of the danger. Seriously, look it up. Now those were some politicians who knew how to protect and serve the citizens.

Now the third general principle, which I was certain

everyone was aware of until recently driving through Georgia, is to drive on the right, pass on the left. "Passing on the left" does not mean idling along about three miles under the speed limit, at the same rate as the truck in the right lane.

Outside these principles, there are some guidelines: As someone from the Northeast, I'd love to see people in Nashville adopt a little bit more liberal approach to horn use. I don't believe this includes blasting your horn after someone cruises through a freshly red light. They're gone. And they know what they did. All you've accomplished is freaking out the safe drivers around you. And drivers do freak out in response to a horn, but this could be modified through a gradual, light introduction of the horn. For example, in scenarios such as when the light has turned green or when you're about to simultaneously cut someone off while flipping them the bird.

This brings us to our next topic: car decorations. There are basically two groups of people here — one who believes a car is a means of transportation and the other who believes it is a vital extension of his or her identity and will make or break his or her success in life. The latter may use bumper stickers, window stickers, vanity plates and bring up his car in conversation when no one there has expressed any interest in driving somewhere. Among the decorators, there are two particularly frustrating sub-groups. We have the political soapbox decorator who can best express his ideals by pasting them all over his car in catchy phrases. These may be mixed in with stickers for political candidates who lost several years ago. After all, studies have shown that 60 percent of voters make their decision based on how often they see a candidate's sign on other people's cars or yards. The second is the fake baseball stuck in the window. What is this!? What are you trying to say here — that you park dangerously close to ballparks? Isn't your rear vision continually obstructed? It's not funny or clever or even logical. You just have a fake baseball on your rear windshield.

—Justin Poythress is a senior in Peabody College. He can be reached at j.poythress@vanderbilt.edu.

EDITORIAL

Iraq memorial effort encouraging

Veterans Day often goes unnoticed or uncelebrated on college campuses, and in the case of Vanderbilt, it seems that the holiday commemorating the sacrifices of the men and women in uniform is never given the attention it deserves.

This year, however, the university has taken a step in the right direction. As reported today in the Hustler, East House and the Office of Active Citizenship and Service sponsored a moving memorial on Alumni Lawn. Small American flags were placed in rows early Tuesday morning, each to memorialize the 4,192 death of every American soldier serving in Iraq since 2003.

This effort, led by sophomore Naveed Nanjee, is

admirable in its attempt to commemorate properly Iraq veterans who have lost their lives. Still, Veterans Day is a day to remember all American veterans in all service capacities, whether they have lived or died in their service.

Vanderbilt should take note of the success of the Iraq Memorial for this year's Veterans Day and should do more to promote a more campus-wide celebration, through the Commons and other means. The project had heads turning and minds contemplating the importance of sacrifice. Perhaps next year, more students and faculty alike will be involved in a memorial for all American veterans of war and peace.

OASIS program outdated, inefficient

As undergraduate students register for spring semester classes, the outdatedness of OASIS, the university's registration program, becomes evident yet again.

OASIS uses the SSH client program PuTTY, a terminal emulator that allows access to a computer mainframe remotely. Students log on to OASIS to register by entering a series of commands to add, drop, show and waitlist courses. While the description may make the program sound advanced to the casual computer user, every Vanderbilt student knows just from using it that OASIS has an archaic interface that appears to be stuck in the 1980s.

Furthermore, the program is anything but user-friendly. The scrolling text does not allow easy

maneuvering between the course schedule and the list of available courses. What results is an inefficient and clumsy system that makes registering for classes a nightmare.

Why does the university continue to use such a poorly outdated program? Why not a more updated program with an interface that allows easily searchable courses and a visual application to aid in scheduling? For an institution that perceives itself as a national-level research university, the backward registration system belies these claims.

Students deserve either a better registration program or an explanation why such a program is not feasible.

—Michael Warren

Color-blindness is a dream

To the Editor:

An excerpt from the most recent The Economist said that after Obama's victory last Tuesday, "America can claim more credibly than any other Western country to have at last become politically colour-blind." Indeed, it seems that we have entered a new era of racial perceptions, where a candidate's skin color is not a deterrent.

Millions of people are celebrating both here and abroad not only because we feel we have elected a great candidate, but also because we are excited to take this leap past racism, a leap that shows our imperfect union is on the road once again to forming a more perfect one. The jubilant emotions of these celebrations are honorable. It is a beautiful thing to see huge numbers of Americans so happy about healing the wounds of slavery and racism.

However, I believe the "color-blind" description is inaccurate. What America's vote showed was not that we don't see color anymore. Rather, we saw that Obama is indeed a black man, we acknowledged his race and we decided that this black man was fit to be president. This is the milestone we have arrived at — not color-blindness, but acceptance that black people are just as intelligent, capable and American as whites are.

A world where there is no black or white in this country is a dream world. Slavery and over 100 years of lawful disenfranchisement of African Americans made that world impossible. Both whites and blacks

still harbor their respective prejudices, and that's just the way it is. We need to acknowledge that instead of pretending we have moved past those prejudices. But we have, to be sure, done a good deal of healing over the years, and that bigotry has diminished considerably.

And even if a color-blind world were possible, I'm not sure we would want to live in it. While it is a noble goal, it would not mean the end of racism. On the contrary, it would hinder efforts of racial healing: A color-blind world would conceal our history that is so necessary for the racial healing process — a process that may never end. Also, different perspectives and experiences are a good thing, not something we want to get rid of by blending them all together.

The fact that Americans did not see a colorless candidate makes Obama's win, I think, even more impressive because it shows most of us are coming to terms with these truths about our country and ourselves. Despite these truths — the impossibility of color-blindness and the existence of prejudices — a majority of Americans (and 43 percent of whites) decided a black man should lead us through perhaps the darkest time in recent history. That decision should, at least for now, quiet even the most ardent cynics, this author included.

James Stoeckle
Senior
College of Arts & Science

An issue of balance

To the Editor:

Vanderbilt has a perception problem. I will be the first to admit that I didn't want to come here because of everything I heard about it. The J. Crew student body and conservative uniformity caused me to apply to Vanderbilt frankly because I just needed another place to send my application. I am so glad how wrong my perception of this university was.

Yet this idea of Vanderbilt still haunts our reputation. Over the summer, I was talking to a group of high school seniors from New York, most of which were not considering Vandy. The reason? Their counselor had informed them that at Vanderbilt you can only attend a football game if you have a date and every student here is conservative.

Vanderbilt has changed, and changed for the better. We are diverse and this makes our community interesting. It's beyond my understanding why anyone would want to live in a homogenous society, but many universities are like that. We aren't.

Yet it is so upsetting how across the country people still define us by our past instead of our future. Part of

the problem is that recently the Hustler has become a watered down version of the Torch. Throughout the election season, the Hustler biases glowed red with every written political piece. The Hustler promotes such an extreme view that many no longer take it seriously. It promotes a dated image of the Vanderbilt community.

Please don't mistake my point. I don't have an issue with how Vandy used to be or conservatives on campus. But this image no longer dominates Vanderbilt. Vanderbilt is now balanced politically. We need to be more vocal, to take Vanderbilt back and properly define what the Vanderbilt experience is. We are a place that has drag shows and Greek Row. A place with engineers, economists and feminists. Our community is too complex to be simply defined by a few people.

Eliza Horn
Sophomore
College of Arts and Science

A call to service



CAROLYN PIPPEN
Columnist

Last week, I was having lunch with friends when someone offhandedly pointed out that graduation was almost exactly six months away. Then I found out what having a stroke feels like.

The rest of the weekend was filled with subtle milestones — my last football tailgate, the last first basketball game, planning for graduation — and more than a little introspection on how much has changed for me and my friends in the last four years. Without nauseating you with my senior sentimentality, suffice it to say my life would be much duller and my perspective much narrower in scope without my experiences here at Vanderbilt.

Unfortunately, I can no longer have these thoughts without remembering the insane number of children in our country who will never get the chance to be so irreversibly changed by their own college education.

This semester I enrolled in High Poverty Youth, a service-learning course that pairs participants with students from low income schools in Nashville for weekly mentoring sessions. It may not be the most academically stringent class I have ever taken, but I have learned more sitting in a 10th grade English class at Maplewood High School than could ever be taught in a 50-minute lecture in a Wilson auditorium.

For example, I learned how difficult it is for a low-income student in an overcrowded, underfunded, inner city public school to get into college, and that all too often this is a result of a simple lack of resources. Human resources.

Think about your own college search experiences: SAT prep, FAFSA forms, high school transcripts, campus visits ... happy memories? I didn't think so. It is not an easy process, but you probably didn't do it alone. Now think how high the level of difficulty rises once you factor in poorly trained teachers with no time for recommendations, overworked counselors buried in paperwork and parents who most likely never went through the process themselves.

A couple months ago, I wrote an article concerning the state of public education in the U.S., as well as here in Nashville. The point made at the piece's conclusion, that little or no immediate action could be reasonably expected from college-age students, drew criticism from students and professors alike.

If there's one thing I hate, it's admitting when I am wrong. In fact, you will probably never hear me do it again, so pay attention.

There is something you can do. Beyond that, there is something you should do. A huge portion of this problem is a simple lack of information, information that you and I have at our fingertips, and to keep it to ourselves while children mere blocks away from our university miss out on the college experience is nothing short of criminal.

Unfortunately, Vanderbilt's High Poverty Youth class will not be taught next semester, but there are a number of ways in which we as students can reach out to the youth of Nashville right now. Organizations like Vanderbuddies, VSVS and Big Brothers Big Sisters provide such opportunities, along with countless other mentoring programs across the area.

We hear a lot of talk these days about keeping our campus "green" by recycling old papers and plastic bottles, but I think it's about time we started focusing on recycling knowledge. It may not be as easy as tossing your trash in as separate container, but the need is just as great, and the stakes are astronomical.

—Carolyn Phippen is senior in the College of Arts and Science. She can be reached at carolyn.m.pippen@vanderbilt.edu.

OPINION POLICY

The Vanderbilt Hustler opinion page aims to stimulate discussion in the Vanderbilt community. In that spirit, columnists, guest columnists and authors of letters to the editor are expected to provide logical argument to back their views. Unreasonable arguments, arguments in bad faith or arguments in vain between columnists have no place in the Hustler and will not be published. The Hustler welcomes reader viewpoints and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on InsideVandy.com.

Letters must be submitted either in person by the author to the Hustler office or via e-mail to opinion.vanderbilt@gmail.com. Letters via e-mail must come from

a Vanderbilt e-mail address where the identity of the sender is clear. With rare exception, all letters must be received by 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday. The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length as well as clarity.

Lengthy letters that focus on an issue affecting students might be considered for a guest column at the editor's discretion.

All submissions become the property of the Hustler and must conform to the legal standards of Vanderbilt Student Communications, of which the Hustler is a division.

CORRECTION POLICY

Accuracy is our profession. As the "Voice of Vanderbilt," we are committed to ensuring our work is fair and accurate. Errors of substance will be corrected. With very rare exception, these corrections will be listed on Page 2.

Bring corrections to the Hustler office in Sarratt 130 or e-mail us at editor@vanderbilthustler.com. You may also report them by telephone to the news line at (615) 322-2424.

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Your voice doesn't stop here. The Vanderbilt Hustler encourages its readers to voice their opinions on legislative issues. The following students and legislators represent the Vanderbilt community.

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11/10/08 SOLUTIONS

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CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Phil or Chris of the NFL
 - Male swans
 - Knock off
 - Disney's mermaid
 - Humdinger
 - African river
 - Paris subway
 - Part of U.A.E.
 - Bath's river
 - Star part
 - Old weapons
 - Select for duty
 - Eagle's nest
 - Gets back together
 - "Sunday, ___ Sunday"
 - Make a blunder
 - Scottish loch
 - Evening party
 - W. mil. alliance
 - Shakespearean contraction
 - Succotash bean
 - Geronimo's tribe
 - Heavy imbibers
 - Singer's engagement
 - Church bellringer
 - Hare's rival
 - Actors Robert and son Alan
 - Breadwinner
 - Hybrid fruit
 - Old VHS rival
 - "Typee" sequel
 - Therefore
 - Pronounce
 - Signage light
 - Knock for a loop
 - Rambunctious
 - Motels' predecessors
 - Rational
 - Expunge

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11/12/08

- DOWN**
- Sleuth Spade
 - Fury
 - Cambridge, MA, sch.
 - Camelot magician
 - ___fizz
 - Dressed (in)
 - Lord's Prayer starter
 - Point a finger at
 - City neighbors
 - Fraudulent elixir
 - In real time
 - Scads
 - Cravings
 - Feed the kitty
 - Missile storage
 - Sports venues
 - Mexican wrap
 - Additional levy
 - Lends a hand
 - Approx.
 - Beginning
 - Death
 - "The Right Stuff" role
 - Stop signs, e.g. Miller
 - Jack of "Barney Miller"
 - Target on the green
 - Interminable
 - Branching diagram
 - Upright height

11/10/08 SOLUTIONS

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- Demosthenes or Cicero, e.g.
- Blood channel
- Singer Braxton
- Grace finale
- 12:00
- Marrow holder
- Luger, e.g.
- H. Hughes' airline
- Newspaper honchos, briefly
- Type of whiskey

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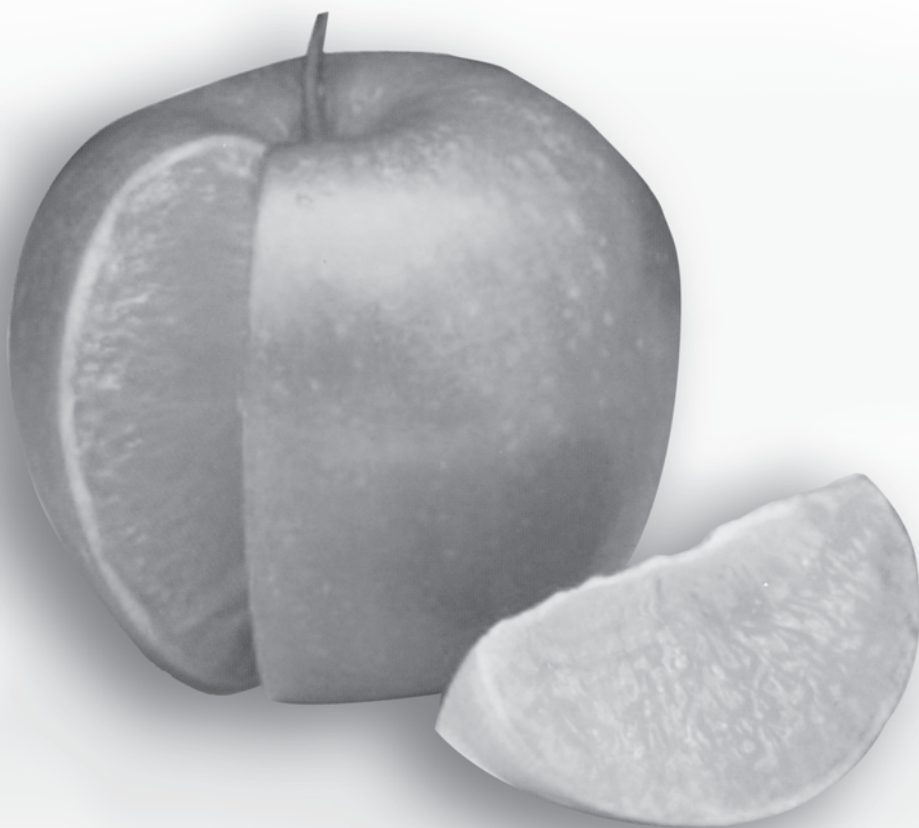
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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

SPORTS

Meet the new guys for men's basketball

The Hustler Staff has the details on Vanderbilt's best recruiting class ever.

Jeff Taylor

Originally from Sweden, Jeff Taylor came to Vanderbilt as the No. 52 recruit in the country as rated by the Rivals Network. The 6-foot-7-inch, 205-pound small forward played for Hobbs High School in New Mexico, where he averaged 30 points, 12 rebounds, three assists, three blocks and three steals per game as a senior in leading his school to a state championship. He was also named the New Mexico Gatorade Player of the Year for 2008.

Coming to Vanderbilt from New Mexico may not be as much of a stretch as it seems. At Hobbs, Taylor's school colors were black and gold and his home gym featured the odd configuration of benches along the baselines instead of on the sidelines.

This summer, he prepared for Vanderbilt by starring for the Under-20 Swedish National Team in the European Division B Championships, and that hard work is already getting him noticed. He had 16 points, three rebounds, one assist and one steal in Sunday's exhibition, only missing one shot from the field.

Taylor has also begun to cause a stir on the practice court, as sources say he managed to accidentally cut his head on the rim a few weeks ago due to his incredible leaping ability. More than capable of putting up points in bunches, Taylor should be counted on early in the season to help make up for the loss of Shan Foster, Vanderbilt's all-time leading scorer.

—Mike Kranzler



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Jordan Smart

Jordan Smart is the stereotypical sharp-shooter of this year's recruiting class, the kind of player who can come in and make 3-pointers along with the occasional last-second shot. Because of his abilities in this area, Smart will bring much value to the team in scoring. In limited minutes in Vanderbilt's exhibition, Smart drained the only three he took.

At 6-foot-6-inch, Smart brings length and athleticism to the guard position as well. Because of his height, it is not difficult to envision a scenario in which coach Kevin Stallings could plug Smart in at forward to give Vanderbilt's offense a boost. This versatility will be especially crucial for the Commodores this year.

When Smart chose to come to Vanderbilt as a preferred walk-on, Stallings and his staff were excited about what he brings to the recruiting class as well as the high level of potential they sense in Smart. Certainly, some of that potential includes his ability to offset the drop in scoring that is inevitable now that former Commodore and Southeastern Conference Player of the Year Shan Foster and his sweet shot have left for the NBA.

Whatever role on the Vanderbilt basketball team Jordan Smart finds himself in this year and in years to come, it is sure that he will be making important contributions to the team. What makes him even more valuable is his keen ability to make shots when it counts.

—Peter Letarte



VU Media Relations

Lance Goulbourne

Lance Goulbourne is a 6-foot-8-inch, 225-pound wing from Brooklyn, N.Y. He starred at The Hun School in New Jersey in both basketball and tennis, averaging 16 points and eight rebounds on the hardwood and boasting a thunderous serve that could reach speeds of up to 130 mph on the tennis court.



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

Goulbourne was a late bloomer on the basketball court, first asserting himself as one of the nation's best in tennis before picking up basketball in the eighth grade. He has also spent the past five years as a ball boy for the U.S. Open, one of professional tennis' premier events.

In Sunday's exhibition against Alabama-Huntsville, he showed off his versatility by notching 6 points, four rebounds, one assist, one block and one steal in only 15 minutes on the court.

Rated as the No. 72 recruit in the country last year by the Rivals Network, Goulbourne was named his county's Player of the Year as a senior. He also led The Hun School to a state championship as a junior.

Extremely athletic for his size, he has range out to the new college 3-point line (the line was moved back by 1 foot in the offseason) but can also drive to the basket and elevate above the rim.

—Mike Kranzler

Brad Tinsley

Brad Tinsley was the last addition to this recruiting class, as the 6-foot-3-inch, 210-pound point guard originally signed with Pepperdine before getting released from his Letter of Intent when their coach was fired at the end of the season. He quickly became a very hot commodity on the recruiting circuit before picking Vanderbilt over Wake Forest.



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

As the No. 94 recruit in his class according to Rivals, Tinsley averaged 21 points, six rebounds and five assists for Oregon City High School as a senior. He led his team to a runner-up finish in the state championship as a senior, and was named the Oregon Gatorade Player of the Year.

He is also No. 5 on the state of Oregon's all-time career scoring list, not far behind current Minnesota Timberwolves rookie Kevin Love and ahead of Duke's Kyle Singler. A nominee for the 2008 McDonald's All-American Game, Tinsley was also a standout baseball player for Oregon City.

He struggled in his debut on Sunday, only scoring 1 point to go along with two assists and one steal, but with the transfer of Keegan Bell in the offseason, playing time should not be hard to come by for the multifaceted guard.

—Mike Kranzler

Steve Tchiengang

At 6-feet-9-inches and 240 pounds, Steve Tchiengang is a physical power forward with enough versatility in his game to nail shots from the perimeter if necessary.

Born in Cameroon, Tchiengang transferred from Houston's Cypress Christian School (where he was a three-time all-state selection) to Florida's Montverde Academy for his senior year. He chose to come to Vanderbilt over Baylor, Georgia Tech, Notre Dame and Oklahoma.

As Rivals' No. 87 recruit last year, he averaged 14 points and nine rebounds for Montverde's nationally ranked team. In 14 minutes of play on Sunday, he contributed 11 points, one rebound and one assist, including a powerful dunk that drew a foul and brought the crowd to its feet. He provided a spark of energy off the bench for the Dores that brought an end to their early struggles and jitters after Alabama-Huntsville raced out to an early 9-point lead.

Like the rest of the members of this class, Tchiengang is extremely athletic and versatile, which should allow coach Kevin Stallings to use him in a number of ways in order to create mismatches on the court. His size and strength will allow him to play in the paint in relief of A.J. Ogilvy and Festus Ezeli, but he is also capable of moving out onto the wing to keep defenses honest.

—Mike Kranzler



FRANCIS SIMPSON / The Vanderbilt Hustler

SEC POWER RANKINGS

Compiled by DAVID RUTZ

	1. Florida 8-1 (6-1 SEC) The Gators brought their offensive showcase to Nashville last Saturday and left an impression with a 42-14 victory and an East division title.
	2. Alabama 10-0 (6-0) Climbing the West with a tough road win over LSU, the Crimson Tide controls its destiny with two easy home games before facing powerful Florida in the SEC Championship.
	3. Georgia 8-2 (5-2) With a defense that's given up over 40 points a game in the last three weeks, the Bulldogs will have to lean on Knowshon Moreno and company to finish the season strong.
	4. LSU 6-3 (3-3) Jarett Lee has thrown a seemingly impressive 19 touchdown passes this season. Big problem though: six of them were of the pick-six variety.
	5. South Carolina 7-3 (4-3) Don't try to find a rhyme or reason to Steve Spurrier's quarterback schemes. It'll give you a headache. The important thing is that the Gamecocks have won six of seven to erase a bad start and have their eyes set on bigger things ahead.
	6. Ole Miss 5-4 (3-3) The Rebels are attempting to erase a streak of bowl futility of their own. A win Saturday will give them eligibility for the first time since 2003.
	7. Vanderbilt 5-4 (3-3) Florida may be playing on another level right now, but that didn't make Saturday's performance any less disappointing. The next three games are the Commodores' for the taking if they play to their potential.
	8. Kentucky 6-4 (2-4) The Wildcats will have to shake off their heartbreak after an interception wiped out a potential upset of Georgia and sent them to their fourth loss in six games following their hot start to 2008.
	9. Arkansas 4-6 (1-5) Razorback quarterback Casey Dick could use a little extra time in the pocket. He's been sacked 15 times in the last four games, including six against South Carolina.
	10. Auburn 5-5 (2-4) The sad Tigers finally won a game, beating Tennessee-Martin to snap a four-game losing streak. Hooray for them.
	11. Mississippi State 3-6 (1-4) No amount of bye weeks could prepare the Bulldogs for the beating they'll be getting from Alabama this weekend.
	12. Tennessee 3-7 (1-5) A home loss to lowly Wyoming marked a new low for this program last week that seemingly could not have sunk lower this season. The Volunteers haven't broken double digits in points in nearly a month.

Price enjoys time back on campus

by DAVID RUTZ
Sports Specialist

Clinching an American League Pennant, pitching in the World Series and being the biggest celebrity in Nashville can be exhausting. Just ask David Price.

The former Vanderbilt star and No. 1 overall draft pick by the Tampa Bay Rays performed the coin toss before the Vanderbilt-Florida football game on Saturday night and welcomed the time back on the campus of his alma mater to get a breather from his busy schedule.

"I'm definitely still catching up," Price said. "I've been running around ever since I got here. This is my offseason."

Price enjoyed the reception



PRICE

by Vanderbilt fans who have followed his brief, but so far memorable, major league career.

"It wasn't a surprise to me," Price said of the fan recognition. "It's still the same whenever I was here at Vanderbilt. They were great fans when I was here and

I wasn't expecting that to change after I left."

Called a "secret weapon" by baseball experts during the Rays' surprising run to the playoffs, Price emerged in the postseason as a saving grace for the Rays who could be counted on in clutch situations. He closed out the ALCS against the Red Sox by recording four outs, three on strikeouts, to put his team in the World Series for the first time in their history. He also recorded a win in extra innings earlier in the series.

Price also had a save in the World Series, the only game the Rays won as they lost the series 4-1 to the Philadelphia Phillies.

For the postseason, Price struck out eight batters in 5 2/3

innings while allowing only one run.

Price, a famously fierce competitor, is the type of player who loves to have the ball in his hand in crunchtime, and it stems from the way he was brought up.

"Just my younger days, my parents," he said. "They teach me everything I do to win, so that's where I got it from. And I was competitive with my older brothers when I was a kid. So I'd just say being competitive my whole life, with my family."

Regardless of where he's been as a pitcher, Price has been a winner, sporting a combination of a fastball in the mid-'90s and a nasty slider. He was named the National Player of the Year for his senior season with the Commodores

before being the No. 1 overall pick in the draft in 2007.

Although used almost exclusively out of the bullpen this season, the 23-year-old has been pegged as the future of the Tampa Bay starting rotation and looks like he'll build on expectations he already exceeded in an excellent, if abbreviated, first season.

In the meantime, Price will relax, saying he is waiting on a manual from the Rays regarding what he should be doing between now and spring training.

"I'm not doing anything baseball-wise right now, probably won't for another week or two," he said. "Just taking it easy, waiting until next year comes around." ■

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NOVEMBER 12—NOVEMBER 18, 2008 VOL. 46, No. 24



VAMPIRE WEEKEND

Lead singer Ezra Koenig tells us all about the band's newfound success and life after college on page 7.

Girl Talk was a wild show in more ways than one. See why on page 5.

Think there's something fishy about sushi? Let us clear the muddy waters on page 3.

American Apparel has an all-American agenda. Find out more on page 6.

PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

REO Speedwagon — Wildhorse Saloon

This veteran rock outfit is coming to blow the doors off the Wildhorse with its hits "Keep On Loving You," "Can't Fight This Feeling" and others. It's also raising money for the flood victims in Iowa. Good causes and good music, everyone wins. (\$35+, 6 p.m., 120 Second Ave. North)

Duncan May — The Mercy Lounge

Funk-soul rock group Duncan May and the Resonators are playing their improvisational acoustic pop for your grateful ears. Their groovy tunes will keep your feet moving all night. (STBD, 9 p.m.)

Blue Highway — Station Inn

Blue Highway is one of the most loved bluegrass bands on the scene today. If you love dobro, fiddle and mandolin, then you can't miss this show. (\$15, 8 p.m.)

ZOSO — Exit/In

ZOSO is a Led Zeppelin tribute band, and they really take things seriously. On top of flawless covers, expect to feel the magic and see the costumes of the classic rock gods on stage. (\$10, 8 p.m.)

Blackberry Smoke — 12th and Porter

This Atlanta-based band is one of the most revered Southern rock bands in the country. They've played with ZZ Top, Cross Canadian Ragweed and Lynyrd Skynyrd. If that isn't enough reason, we don't know what is. (\$8, 9 p.m., 114 12th Ave. North)

In The Row — The Bluebird Cafe

Bluebird Cafe has put together some of the best upcoming songwriters in Nashville including Jason Carson, Misty Rae, Jeff Dayton and Sarah Darling. (Free, 6 p.m.)

Showcase — Tootsie's Orchid Lounge

Tootsie's is putting on a daylong showcase of some of the best acts in town on two different stages. Acts include Scott Collier, Anthony Orio, Young Guns of Country and Steven West & Leslie Craig. (Free, 5:30 p.m., 422 Broadway)

Rock for Darfur — The Underworld

Looking to save the world and have a great time? The cover charge at the Underworld will go to Darfuri refugees, and you can have a great night. Make sure to stop by. (TBD, 10 p.m., next to Chili's)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Born Empty with Gnarwhal, MARJI and Look What I Did — The End

Head to The End, located on Elliston Place just a few blocks behind campus, to check out local Nashvillian rockers Born Empty. Joining them are punk rock groups Gnarwhal, MARJI and Look What I Did, all from Nashville. (\$5, 9 p.m.)

Long Players perform Jimi Hendrix's "Are You Experienced?" — The Mercy Lounge/Cannery Ballroom

Feeling retro? The Mercy Lounge and Cannery Ballroom have what you need to satisfy your throwback cravings. Famous cover group The Long Players will be performing Jimi Hendrix's "Are You Experienced?" album in its entirety on Friday, including popular tracks such as "Foxy Lady" and "Purple Haze." (\$15, 9 p.m.)

Iconic Rock Wear presents Return to Self and The Worsties — Exit/In

Return to Self and The Worsties are two gritty rock bands from our own city of Nashville. Coming together for a night of punk-influenced rock 'n' roll, these two acts are sure to bring down the house at the Exit/In. (Tickets TBA, 9 p.m.)

The Lost Patrol — Cafe Coco

Hailing from the suburbs of New York and New Jersey, rock group The Lost Patrol has made a name for itself throughout the continent, touring from Toronto to Nashville and everywhere in between. It's hard to find their atmospheric surf-rock sound in the country music capital of the world — give them a shot at nearby Cafe Coco. (\$5, 8 p.m.)

Moderately Sauced — Bourbon Street Blues and Boogie Bar

Self-professed "No. 1 Party Band" Moderately Sauced plans to put on quite the show at the Bourbon Street Blues and Boogie Bar. With a talented lead singer (Rachel Rodriguez) and a fun-loving vibe, Moderately Sauced is sure to brighten the evening and put on a show to be remembered. (Tickets TBA, 9 p.m., 220 Printer's Alley)

Snap on 2 & 4 with Bruce Dudley Quartet — Nashville Jazz Workshop

The Bruce Dudley Quartet, led by prolific jazz pianist Bruce Dudley, puts on a "Snap" at the Nashville Jazz Workshop. Dudley's sound is influenced by artists including Keith Jarrett, Bill Evans and Bud Powell, and is a quintessential representation of all things jazz. (\$15 public/\$8 college students, 8 p.m., 1319 Adams St.)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

"Oz with Orchestra — Nashville Symphony"

Conductor Albert-George Shram leads the renowned Nashville Symphony through the full orchestra accompaniment of the soundtrack of one of the most revered movies of all time, "The Wizard of Oz." (\$ 22.50-67.50, 8 p.m.)

Tony Laiolo — Douglas Corner Cafe

Americana/folk/roots musician and Nashville native has been in love with live music since he was 8 years old. Check out his unique blend of these genres at the relatively undiscovered Douglas Corner Cafe. (Price TBA, 9 p.m.)

November with Caprice and Former — 12th and Porter

This Nashville-based band combines classic rock instrumentation, like pounding drums and electric guitar riffs, with modern songwriting and soulful vocals. (\$8, 8 p.m., 114 12th Avenue North)

Umphrey's McGee — The Mercy Lounge

You'll have to fight past packs of devoted fans to get into this show, but you'll be happy you did. Chicago-based Umphrey's McGee is one of the best undiscovered bands touring, and some have even called the group one of the best live bands ever. (\$20, 9 p.m.)

Opry at the Ryman — Grand Ole Opry

The country classic features Diamond Rio, The Time Jumpers and more this week. Make sure to go to Opry once before you graduate — it's a family tradition. (\$36, 7 p.m., 116 Fifth Ave. North)

Jazz & Jokes — Belcourt Theatre

Marvin Gaye was a musical icon that was struck down in the middle of his prime. Comedians and musicians unite to celebrate the life of one of the greatest musicians to ever live. (\$11, 7 p.m., 2102 Belcourt Ave.)

Funkwrench — The Basement

The trio describes itself to be the ultimate jam band, with screaming vocals, incredible electric jam sessions and overall mayhem. Check out what all the buzz is about. (Price TBA, 9 p.m., 1604 8th Avenue South)

The Regulars

THE RUTLEDGE
410 Fourth Ave. S. 37201
782-6858

MERCY LOUNGE/CANNERY BALLROOM
1 Cannery Row 37203
251-3020

BLUEBIRD CAFE
4104 Hillsboro Road 37215
383-1461

EXIT/IN
2208 Elliston Place 37203
321-3340

STATION INN
402 12th Ave. S. 37203
255-3307

THE BASEMENT
1604 Eighth Ave. S. 37203
254-1604

F. SCOTT'S RESTAURANT AND JAZZ BAR
2210 Crestmoor Road 37215
269-5861

SCHERMERHORN SYMPHONY CENTER
1 Symphony Place 37201
687-6500

3RD AND LINDSLEY
818 Third Ave. S. 37210
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Versus

NOVEMBER 12—NOVEMBER 18, 2008 VOL. 46, No. 24

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FROM THE EDITOR



For those of us not lucky enough to be staying for the Tennessee game the first Saturday of Thanksgiving Break, Saturday's match against Florida was the last home hurrah. For those of us not lucky enough to be coming back to school next fall (Class of 2009, and perhaps those of us not keeping up with our studies) it was the last home hurrah ever. As I stood in the freezing cold weather, wrapped in assorted layers of clothing and clutching a rather questionable hot dog for warmth, watching the Gators rack up points at a surprising speed, I got an expected wave of nostalgia when is the next time that I will be afforded the opportunity to watch my college football team lose terribly while eating a hotdog of unknown origin in 30 degree weather? Never?

This year is flying by; there seems to be a countdown on every aspect of my life. Two weeks before Thanksgiving. Four more issues of Versus this semester. However many more days of classes. With Thanksgiving Break and even Christmas looming in the very near future, it's only natural to feel like our semester, and for seniors, our time at Vanderbilt, has a finite and quickly approaching expiration date because everybody knows that spring semester lasts about a minute.

So, Class of 2009, my advice to you, which is both extremely novel and very specific, is to seize the day. No, really! To be aware of every opportunity that you have to do something you love or to try something new. Because as my senior panic attack tells me every other day, our days of being Vanderbilt students are sadly numbered. And then we have to re-enter the world as real people, and who even knows what that really means.

Now, my advice on where to start is actually much more specific and helpful. Check out those crazy listings on the front page. They will direct you to musical greatness.

Darcy Newell

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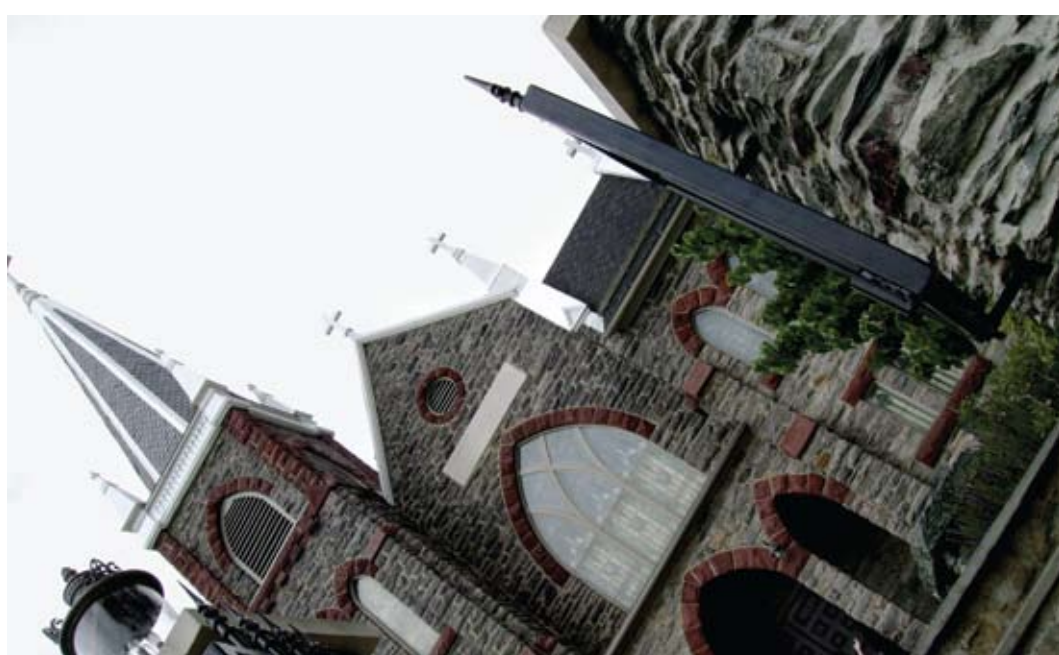


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PIC OF THE WEEK



AMELIA SPINNEY/VERSUS MAGAZINE

FICTION

"THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU CAN'T SHARE WITHOUT ENDING UP LIKING EACH OTHER."
—J.K. ROWLING



Songs of Entitlement

Vampire Weekend

One of the great things about the arts is when you can find a way to synergistically combine different avenues of expression. Here at Versus, we're trying something new: Every week, we're going to take the name of a song by a featured artist and have one of our writers turn it into a short story. This week we're giving you twice the bang for your buck with two songs from Vampire Weekend.

CHRIS GEARING
Features Editor

"The Mansard Roof" is where we agreed to meet. She said that she had something to tell me, and for some reason Ben Folds' "Brick" was rushing through my head. I attempted to purge the thoughts of depressing piano music by lighting up a cigarette. I quit three weeks ago, but I couldn't do it right now. It's too cold and I am too tired. Nothing living should be outside in five-degree weather, but she said it was important so, here I am. My lip, and subsequent cigarette, quivered in the chilly Massachusetts night.

The kind of choking feeling in my throat when she was slow dancing with Trent told me everything I needed to know. I didn't want her slow dancing with Trent, or anyone else for that matter. She was mine in a way that I can't put into words. She was mine in a way that friends are more than friends. I haven't been able to bring myself to say the words again since I saw her eyes freeze up the first time. In all honesty, that night was everything I had ever wanted from her. I stamped out the last of my cig and paced around in anxious anticipation.

I had always viewed my first time as being that soft-lit thing in a John Hughes movie. Candle light and soft music, her breathing softly in my ear. Very John Cusack, right? What happened instead is what happens to everyone the awkwardness, the apprehension over your performance, not knowing where to look. And the icing on the cake was that she walked out afterward without even a word. Just the quiet to console me as I sat in a ball on the air mattress regretting what should have been the most beautiful words I had ever spoken.

Headlights crested the hill and I straightened my scarf, only to be greeted by her flushed cheeks and a half-smile ... ☘

HAIKUS

Words to live by in seventeen syllables

Without elections
What can we argue about?
I say... semantics.

Gee had his bow ties—
Zeppos needs a signature.
Gold grillz, anyone?

KRIS STENSLAND
Fiction Editor

"I Stand Corrected," I said. I'm not used to apologizing, or even admitting I'm wrong (because I still maintain that I'm not often wrong I hadn't apologized to her for that, either). There was conviction in my words, but in a different way than she took them. I didn't think she would mind before when I didn't tell her exactly what I was thinking and feeling, but ...

I stand corrected. I played the same word games in my head that I always do when I say something that everyone says mainly wondering if she would think it's funny that I was neither standing nor believing that it was correct. I always think of things like that, but I didn't say them to her before. I didn't think she appreciated them, but ...

I stand corrected. I knew she could see my mind drifting she always knew right where my head was going before I even got there. She could jump to any of my conclusions just as I was getting there myself. I never really believed that she understood me so well, but ...

I stand corrected. And now it's different. I haven't decided whether it's better or not, but I guess time will have to tell. I always used to believe that planning everything exactly way ahead was the best. I'm trying to be flexible. She told me I had to be. I think it's going to be OK. I'm trying not to be cocky and make too optimistic of an outlook. Not that it won't get better, I'm just hoping that I won't ever again have to say ...

I stand corrected. ☘

Interested in writing a Song of Entitlement?
E-mail the Versus editors at Versusvu@gmail.com!

ENTERTAINMENT

FOOD

A guide to the hidden gems of Nashville sushi

LISA KARVELLAS
Staff Writer

Given the facts that Nashville is completely land-locked, has a 1 percent Asian population and an essentially non-existent demand for sushi, there are unsurprisingly few restaurants to choose from when looking to satisfy that craving for toro. Local restaurants like Virago and Ru Sans promote an Americanized version of the cuisine, or as they like to call it, "Asian-fusion." Though these restaurants have a fun atmosphere, they lack the authenticity that sushi enthusiasts crave. It seems that every roll on their menus is deep fried and slathered in mayonnaise, which does not cut it for the true sushi lover.

But don't despair: Our dear Japanese friends have established a place where the soy sauce flows like wine. It is a sushi haven where foodies instinctively flock like the salmon of Capistrano. I'm talking about a little place called Samurai.

This tiny restaurant on Elliston Place across from Exit/In is admittedly a little shady, but it arguably has the best quality sushi in town. Up until their expansion about a month ago, Samurai only had about 10 tables and no liquor license. Post-expansion they have increased their table count to 15 and can serve you and your pals a cold Sapporo to wash down that wasabi.

As for food, I would advise you to stick with the rolls and pass on the sashimi. This is some of the freshest fish you're going to find in Nashville, but we are still in Tennessee. My personal favorite is the volcano roll, which consists of fresh tuna, creamy avocado and asparagus topped with "dynamite" (thin strips of crab and julienned cucumbers mixed in a light tangy sauce), all for \$8.95. A close second, however misleading it may sound, is the "sushi burrito." This roll has eel, crab meat, avocado and sticky rice wrapped in light soy paper with creamy wasabi and eel sauce on top for only \$6.95.

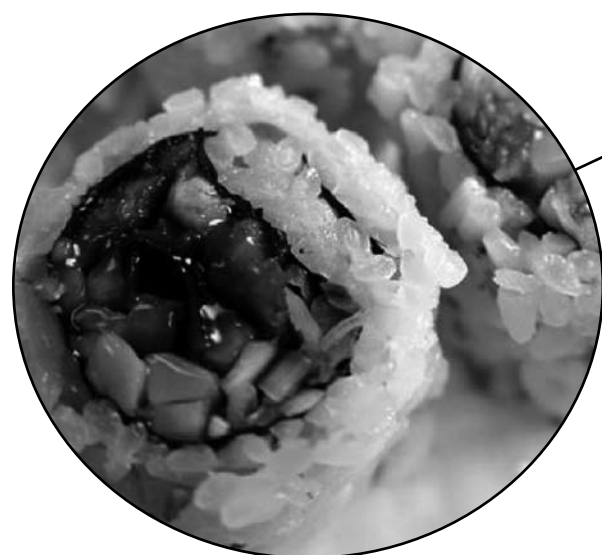
If you want to add a little more luxury to your dining and

a little more bomb to your sake, Sushi Yobi on Demonbreun Street is another great find. The prices are slightly elevated, but the environment and convenience of bars next door is well worth those extra bucks.

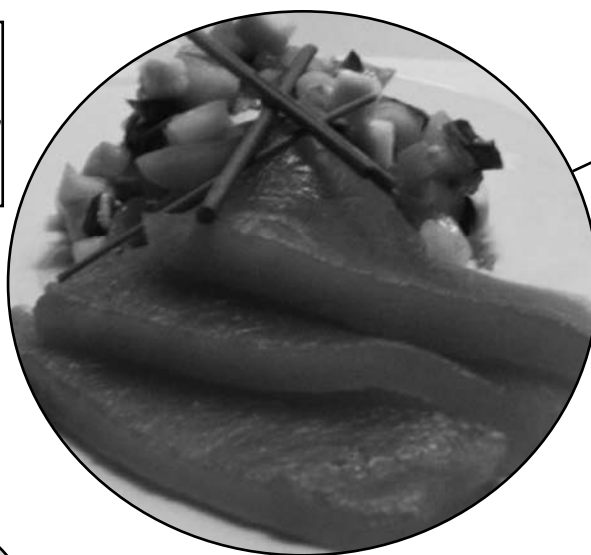
I especially enjoy their tuna tartare appetizer, which is tender cuts of red tuna lightly tossed in a spicy sauce with fresh scallions and tobiko for \$9. Sushi Yobi's chefs also do a fantastic job thinking up some of the most creative rolls I have seen. My personal favorite is the green roll, which combines asparagus, cucumber and avocado and is topped with savory seaweed, all for \$5.95. The crunchy mochi roll is also spectacular with spicy crab, cucumber, shrimp and a light drizzle of eel sauce for \$8.95.

Although places like Virago and Ru Sans are fun for large parties, when it comes down to the quality of sushi, there is no comparison. So next time you want to indulge in a fishy feast, check out Samurai and Sushi Yobi, and I promise you will be pleasantly surprised. ☘

There are a lot of fish in the sea and on the sushi menu. Let Versus help you look like a pro at the sushi bar:



Maki: (Rolls) Fish and other ingredients, such as cucumber and avocado, rolled in rice and seaweed.



Sashimi: Thin sliced fresh fish sans rice.

Nigiri: Slices of fresh fish over a crescent of rice.



Temaki: Seaweed shaped into a cone and filled with rice, fish and other ingredients such as fish roe and cucumbers.



MOVIES

Chabrol crafts one great film in 'Girl Cut in Two'

BEN GRIMWOOD
Staff Writer

Irony, suspense, wry humor and an impending loss of innocence define "A Girl Cut in Two," the most recent film by Claude Chabrol. Chabrol is an important director of the turn-of-the-'60s French New Wave, and his work is characterized by deliberate cinematography and unsettling editing. A co-writer of the film's screenplay, Chabrol's extensive filmmaking experience allows him to craft an elaborate story that lends itself to a visually impressive look at a destructive romantic triangle.

The film centers around a young, perky, television weather girl, Gabrielle (Ludivine Sagnier), who finds herself torn between love for a much older author, Charles (Francois Berleand) and the attentions of a perfectly coiffed, spoiled and brash young suitor, Paul (Benoit Magimel). As her relations with Charles intensify, trouble ensues as Charles refuses to leave his wife. Meanwhile, Paul pursues Gabrielle and attempts to gain her love through proposing marriage and money. The demands of both men frustrate Gabrielle until forces beyond her control culminate with the collision of violence and passion, leaving her with shattered innocence.

In terms of acting, Sagnier is particularly

adept as Gabrielle, endowing the role with energy and naivety that convey her innocence and charm. With each wound inflicted, or cut, on her psyche, viewers share her pain. Berleand and Magimel are equally believable in their roles as Charles and Paul, respectively, but the real gem in the film is Caroline Silhol as Mme. Gaudens, who delivers a pleading monologue near the end of the film to appeal to the sympathies of Gabrielle to save her son. Though I had already been impressed with the way she portrays Mme. Gaudens with aloofness, in this scene, I was transfixed by her emotional intensity in candor and delivery.

Irony, treasured by the French, establishes and defines the tone of the film. For example, a great deal of thematic irony centers on the adage: "What's in a name?" Gabrielle Aurore Deneige evokes ideas of purity and innocence with its references to snow and the aurora borealis, the Northern lights. The name Charles Saint-Denis turns out to have been created as a pseudonym — a lie, as the "Saint" has been assumed by a man who is far from saintly. Charles also invokes the name when he describes his blindly devoted wife. Finally, at one point in the film, someone comments on the name "Gaudens," realizing it as a symbol of corruption in the way "Tartuffe" has come to stand for a religious hypocrite and "Candide" signifies naivety. These character definitions through nomenclature identify characters in terms of symbolism.

Meanwhile, in terms of Gabrielle's precarious situation, the titular figurative "cutting" of Gabrielle indicates her triangular romantic relationship. With a married man unwilling to leave his wife and a relentless suitor, viewers can already surmise how the film is going to end, but the film never ceases to offer a few surprises anyway. For example, the ways in which events transpire, including the climax and its motivations, are certainly shocking.

All in all, "Girl Cut in Two" is certainly worth seeing for fans of tragicomedies or for insight into a distinct culture and style of filmmaking. "Girl Cut in Two" is now playing at the Belcourt Theatre. ☘



MOVIES

Keira Knightly's turn as 'The Dutchess' deserves at least a DVD rental

SARA GAST
Managing Editor

I started getting excited for "The Dutchess" when I saw a picture in a bathroom stall of Keira Knightley all done up in 18th century clothing. I got really excited when my English professor suggested a class field trip (can we still have those?) to see the film.

"The Dutchess" tells the story of Georgiana (Knightley), the Dutchess of Devonshire, who very quickly finds herself in an unhappy marriage with her husband, the Duke of Devonshire (Ralph Fiennes).

There's lots of extra-marital activity, lots of male repression of females and a three-way marriage. The plot line is caught up in the way of life in the 18th century, and I think that's what makes it so fascinating — and incredibly frustrating — to watch it as a woman today.

More than the naked people running out of bedrooms, the not-so-subtle subtleties director Saul Dibb makes about the way women were treated was what drew me into the story. Husbands were allowed to abuse their wives and have as many affairs as they wanted without risking punishment.

Georgiana was not allowed one luxury for herself, not a friend and, at one point, not even her children, who the duke despised for being girls, not boys. She sacrifices everything to raise them (as well as her husband's illegitimate daughter) all because of her duty.

But Dibb wants the viewer to be constantly fascinated by Georgiana's beauty, charm and intelligence to prove that she is of equal mind to men — and Knightley rises to the occasion. Of course those features aren't hard to come by for this English twenty-something, but there was something more in her performance than I've seen before.

As a viewer, I felt a complete helplessness in her submission, and I saw her inner conflict as Georgiana was torn between her own secret affair and her love for her children. She would make a sly joke about



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women not having a vote (or a voice) in one scene, and in the next she would show the only way women could gain attention: through fashion and outlandish public displays. (The wardrobe department will probably get, and certainly deserves, an Oscar nod for their contribution.) Georgiana was put on a pedestal, but knowing the broken and chained woman under the big hairdo and corset made me simultaneously sad and grateful.

"The Dutchess" isn't exactly an upper on the mood chart, but it's certainly one you want to see — it's history, romance and drama all in one very pretty package. Just save it for one of those rainy days. ☘



MUSIC

*"Let me remind you: We are party people, and things will get better."
— Jimmy Buffett*

SETLIST

TODAY

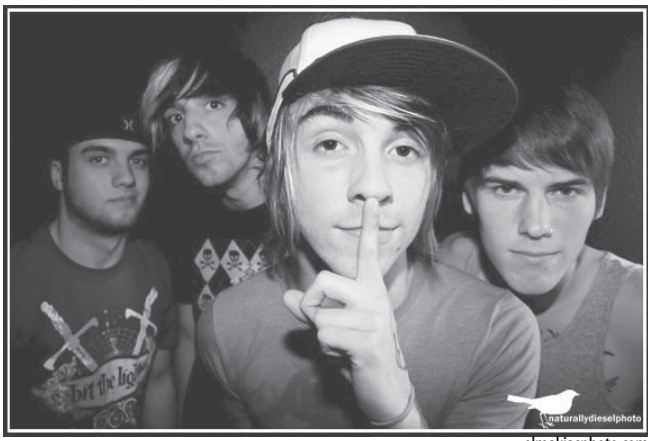
Local artist **Heather Bond** brings her blend of indie and pop to 12th and Porter. Opens **The Mercy Birds** and **Minor Kings** also hail from Nashville. For an evening of up-and-coming local rock and pop music, head over to the venue at 9 p.m. Tickets are a bargain at \$5.

THURSDAY, NOV. 13

Come out and see Grammy-nominated bluegrass group **Blue Highway** at the Station Inn. The band members have won 11 International Bluegrass Music Association awards in total, and the group is one of the most respected in today's music business.

FRIDAY, NOV. 14

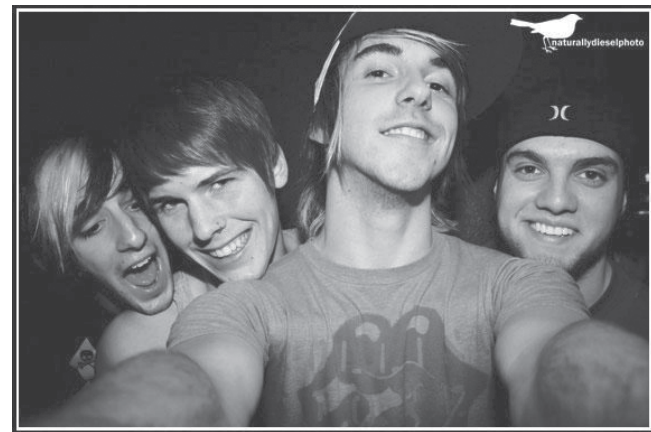
Seven local musicians backed by local paper Nashville Scene have been chosen to perform Friday at the Exit/In. Featured performers include **Scott 76**, **Heathern Haints**, **No Song Sung** and **Ole Mossy Face**. The benefit show starts at 8 p.m., and tickets are a required donation of \$5.



elmakiasphoto.com

Q&A

with
Alex Gaskarth
of



davidbergman.net

ALL TIME LOW

COURTNEY ROGERS

Culture Editor

Pop-punk rockers All Time Low hit the upper ranks of the Billboard charts with 2007's "So Wrong It's Right." After touring this summer on the Vans Warped Tour, the band will be performing at next Wednesday's mtvU Woodie Awards. Culture Editor Courtney Rogers took a few minutes to chat with lead singer and guitarist Alex Gaskarth about life on the road, punk rock influences and the band's past as Cirque du Soleil trainees.

Versus Magazine: Do you ever get tired of touring or get homesick, or do you just have a lot of fun hanging out with the guys in the band?

Alex Gaskarth: I mean, for the most part it's actually just a really good time. I think it takes a certain breed of person to want to tour all the time like we do. ... But for the most part we have an amazing time on the road. We make a great time out of everything. We do, you know, like toward the end of a three-month tour you definitely get a little bit homesick, but if that's the worst part of your job then it's really not too much to worry about?

VM: I can tell from your music that you have a lot of influences like Blink-182 and Green Day. What sets All Time Low apart from the general pop/punk mold?

AG: I think the biggest thing that's unique about this band is one, the amount of energy and sincerity that we invest into the music and two, the connection that we try to maintain with our listeners. I think we're a band that kind of actually went above and beyond in the very beginning to stay really, really close and really, really true. ... It was always us running the MySpace, it was always us answering the messages, and for the most part, it still is.

VM: What is your favorite song is to perform and why?

AG: I think right now my favorite song to play would have to be "The Beach" from our newest CD. Reason being it's just kind of a lot of fun to play. It's a lot of energy, and I'm like on the nerdy musical side of it. I really like the harmonies in that song. They're just kind of pleasing to the ears.



TIM KIRCH/myspace.com



TOM FALCONE/myspace.com



TOM FALCONE/myspace.com



myspace.com

VM: You guys have such an amazing story, getting your record deal right out of high school. What challenges did you have kind of having that kind of success so early?

AG: I think the biggest challenge was convincing our parents at the time to let us do it and not go to college. That's a pretty big like scary choice for a parent to have to sit back and make. Like am I really consciously going to let my kid take this much of a risk? But I think we've been really lucky, and it kind of came together, and now we have support from the parents, so I think that was the biggest step to make at the time.

VM: How the idea for the "Poppin' Champagne" music video come about?

AG: To be completely honest that video was a little bit chaotic, and I think a big part of that was really just, can we take a video budget and have as much fun without blowing it. The concept was in no way supposed to be elaborate or deep. ... At the end of the day I'm not even sure if the video made sense, but it was a lot of fun to shoot and it was a lot of fun to learn that dance routine, and it was a lot of fun dressing up like we were dressed up. So we had a good time doing it.

VM: Speaking of which, what does it take to coordinate a bunch of boys like that?

AG: Well, everybody in this band is not only extremely good looking but also really, really talented, and we were all tall so we trained by Cirque de Soleil for probably eight years when we were toddlers to about 12 years old. So, you know, we were already pretty professional dancers when we came into this game. So I think that was the main part of helping us. No, I'm just kidding.

VM: What was your initial reaction when you found out you had been nominated for the Woodies Award? What would it represent to you if you won it?

AG: I don't know. It's kind of like mind-blowing, really. Being recognized by, you know, a network like MTV for anything is really, really cool. And if we win, I think it'll say a lot about our fans, and it'll say a lot about how much progress this band has made over the past two years. I will probably be pretty floored, but it's really cool to be nominated. I'm very excited about it. ☼

Kidz should leave the hall (for a much bigger stage)

ZACH HUNTER

Staff Writer

Friday night's concert at The Mercy Lounge featured a couple of strong performances by two no name local disc jockeys as well as an impressive set by headliner MURS.

All bowed down, however, to Naledge and Double-O, the "Kidz" of Kidz in the Hall. The two calmly stepped onstage to the applause of the modest crowd of a few hundred, but as soon as DJ Double-O spun the first beat and began slamin' away on his electronic drum set, the duo's energy reached the roof and stayed there for their entire hour-long set.

The two artists have a great relationship on stage; Naledge does the MCing and carries the crowd while Double-O directs the tempo of the show from behind his DJ table, occasionally improv-ing drum solos. The only thing that seems to be holding them back from performing to bigger audiences is their lack of enough material to carry a concert beyond about an hour. Though frankly, how much longer are hip-hop acts anyway?

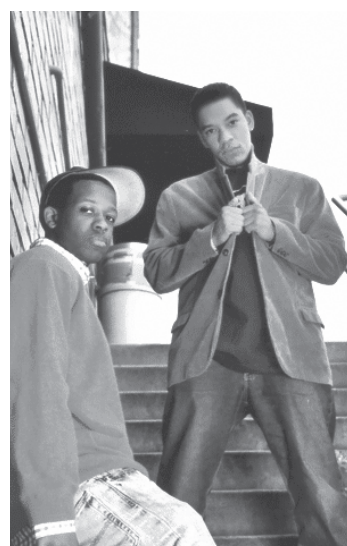
For those who don't know, Kidz in the Hall are a hip-hop duo on the rise. Their single "Love Hangover," off their latest album "The In Crowd," features Estelle

and spent some time on the top ten of "Total Request Live." They have created a reputation founded on smart lyrics, catchy beats and high-energy performances.

As the Kidz continue their way up in the hip-hop world, they will continue to produce solid, refreshing albums as well as perform breath-taking, energy-to-the-roof shows. For the present time pick up "The In Crowd" and drive to their next closest tour date, because Friday was one awesome show. ☼



theagencygroup.com



myspace.com

mtvU's fifth annual Woodie Awards to honor fan favorites

CHARLIE KESSLERING

Staff Writer

In a world barren of gratuitous award shows and filled with people thirsting for more, mtvU's Woodie Awards exist as a rockin' desert oasis.

On Nov. 19, for the fifth year in a row, cable's presumed hub-premier for college music will hand out chunks of lumber to fan-picked favorites. While "Woodie of the Year," "Best Video Woodie" and "Good Woodie" may sound more like accolades for performers in the porn industry and less like awards for musicians, these are only a few of the categories in which major label artists, indie groups and college bands are vying for listeners' votes, according to www.woodies.mtvu.com.

The honor of best "College Radio" station debuts this year, accompanying the "Breaking Woodie" distinction, given to the best new artist, the "Performing Woodie," awarded for the most dazzling live show, the "Left Field Woodie," bestowed upon the artist that most successfully came out of nowhere, the "Best Music on Campus," presented to

the ultimate college group, and the aforementioned bunch in the pile of timber awaiting distribution.

Before last Friday, when online voting ended, fans had an eclectic group of nominees to choose from in each Woodie category; artists ranging from Lil' Wayne to MGMT and Santogold in the "Best Woodie" contest (artist of the year), and from Ludacris to Eddie Vedder in the "Good Woodie" bout (the artist that has most effectively committed themselves to a social cause).

In the past, Woodies have often gone to lesser-known artists than the typical winners at the Video Music Awards or Grammys. Carrying on this tradition, this year's slew of nominees include relatively unfamiliar



bestweekever.tv

acts like Chromeo, Yelle, Lykki Li, All Time Low and Motion City Soundtrack, many of whom will clash next Wednesday for "Left Field Woodie" and "Breaking Woodie" honors.

Alongwiththepresentation of overvalued fire starters to category victors, Woodie viewers will have a chance to enjoy performances by some favorite artists. Vampire Weekend, Lykkie Li, Santogold and All Time Low are all slated to appear on stage. While all four artists have been known to impress crowds, the Woodie Web site's in-house blogger, known only as VJ Kim, believes Santogold will "bring (viewers) what is sure to be arguably the best performance of the night" — a vague, yet hearty, endorsement.

The Woodie Awards kick off on mtvU at 7 p.m. ☼



dashmusic.com

SATURDAY, NOV. 15

Progressive rock/jam band **Umphrey's McGee** is bringing its heady jams to The Cannery Ballroom. With influences as diverse as Pink Floyd, Iron Maiden and The Beatles, Umphrey's is sure to put on a show to be remembered. Head over to 1 Cannery Row at 9 p.m. to catch the concert. Tickets are \$20.

SUNDAY, NOV. 16

One of VH1's "100 Greatest Artists of Hard Rock," **The Black Crowes**, hit up Nashville's historic Ryman Auditorium on their fall tour. This legendary group guarantees a solid performance, and with tickets running for just \$36-\$56, the show is a bargain. The night kicks off at 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 17

Indie/pop couple **Mates of State** cracked the Billboard top 200 with their latest album, "Re-Arrange Us." Give these talented performers a shot at the Exit/In. Tickets are \$14 in advance and \$16 the day of the show, and opener Brother Reade goes onstage at 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 18

Canadian indie group **Broken Social Scene**, with 19 members and a vast diversity of sounds, is sure to put on a performance not to be missed. Versus will be at this show, and you should be too — get there at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$21 in advance and \$23 the day of the show.

SOUNDTRACK TO THE ISSUE



We at Versus have excellent taste in music. Below, the editors share what tracks we've been spinning as we create the glory you're holding in your hands.

1. "MINUTE BY MINUTE"
Girl Talk
2. "I'M GOOD, I'M GONE"
Lykke Li
3. "GREAT DJ"
The Ting Tings
4. "JOHN WAYNE GRACY, JR."
Sufjan Stevens
5. "LET'S CALL IT OFF (GIRL TALK REMIX)"
Peter Bjorn & John
6. "BONAFIED LOVIN"
Chromeo
7. "CAPE COD KWASSA KWASSA"
Vampire Weekend
8. "SUMMER IN THE CITY (PROPER VILLAINS '08 REMIX)"
The Lovin' Spoonful
9. "D.G.A.F.L.Y.F."
Super Mash Bros
10. "RAISE THE DEAD"
Phantom Planet

Artist to know: Amie Miriello

DARCY NEWELL
Editor in Chief

Singer-songwriter Amie Miriello speaks to my 22-year-old soul. Let me explain what I mean.

It seems to me that each generation has a very distinct musical identity. Though many generations can claim the same music to be their own, we all experienced this music at different times in our lives, thus coloring experiences like middle school, prom and college summers at home with very different soundtracks. For example, for those of us now in college, our middle school music was defined by boy band pop, PG-rated rap and perhaps most profoundly for women, the enchanting, guitar-toting female vocalists like Jewel

and Alanis Morissette. Now, almost a decade later, songs like "Hand in My Pocket" and "You Were Meant For Me" are still engrained in our minds and present on our iPods, and, for that matter, still speak to us as clearly as they did when we were barely teenagers.

It might be that the face of music has changed, and that enchanting, guitar-toting female vocalists are that much harder to come by, but I feel like I haven't really loved a young, female pop musician since those early days of buying singles for \$1.99 and listening to them on my gaudy white boombox. Thus, when "I Came Around," the debut album from Amie Miriello (aptly titled with regards to my quest for a new singer-songwriter to relate to) arrived on the Versus desk a few weeks ago,

I listened to it with the high hopes of discovering the next, great female vocalist for my soundtrack. I haven't really stopped listening to it since. "I Came Around" fills the void in my life for female-driven expressive lyrics, soaring vocals and infectious and new instrumentals. The album, released in September by Jive Records' heavyweight Teresa LaBarbera Whites and her new label BellaSonic Imprint, boasts 11 tracks of Miriello's soul searching; soul searching that manages to be at the same time, intensely personal and universally affecting. Her vocals range from feathery and soft to commanding and full of spite, and although she shows diversity from track to track, her whole album is ultimately cohesive, leaving the listener feeling as if she, in some way, actually knows this woman who is singing.

It's impossible for me to pick a favorite song — I want to rave about each and every one. "Coldfront" likens a bout of cold weather to her significant other's shifting warmth toward her, and the analogy rings true as Miriello displays her vocal prowess to the rhythm of a snare drum and a jazzy piano. "Brand New" is spunky and full of impact, as Miriello croons about a new crush and his disarming effect on her. Any song on the album is absolutely



buzzworthy.mtv.com



wxpn.blogspot.com

download-worthy, but I urge you to spring for the big purchase and buy the entire album, as the album truly functions like a story, and the songs are most inspiring when listened to all together, one after the other.

Miriello is wrapping up her tour with Bob Schneider, which sadly included a stop at Nashville's 3rd and Lindsley in early October, far before my love affair with this album began. I don't doubt that she will be back to Music City before we know it, but in the meantime, download "I Came Around" to hold you over. ☾



weimef.org

Girl Talk rocks Nashville

College-aged crowd shuts down show and breaks stage.

AVERY SPOFFORD
Music Editor

Famed mashup disc jockey Gregg Gillis, a.k.a. Girl Talk, brought a party to The Cannery Ballroom on Thursday night that rocked Nashville's music scene to the core.

Armed only with leaf-blower-wielding hype men, crowd-surfing beach balls and a stage full of electronics, Girl Talk managed to put on a show of epic proportions, ensnaring his sold-out audience in a hazy net of sweat, booze and toilet paper streamers.

Although being at a Girl Talk show is sort of like going to a giant, overly sweaty house party where they're playing a Girl Talk CD, Gillis put on a surprisingly engaging show. His sweaty gyrations and erratic bouncing made for a captivating performance, keeping the crowd focused on him throughout the mayhem of the night.

The set Gillis spun was a perfect blend of new and old: while he rocked samples from his latest release "Feed The Animals" as well as 2006's "Night Ripper," he also made sure to incorporate new samples and fresh use of old tracks. Favorite samples were reworked over new songs for an exciting and new update on familiar Girl Talk pieces.

Distracting from the allure of Gillis' spastic-yet-early coordinated music and moves, however, was the hostile and disrespectful attitude of fans at the show. Music lovers that come to a Girl Talk show come to party, but Thursday's crowd took things too far, resulting in a broken stage, busted sprinkler head and an early end to



memo57.blogspot.com

the show.

Seconds into the first song, throngs of Vandy kids rushed the stage, completely overwhelming security and turning the area surrounding Gillis into a hazardous mess of flailing limbs, broken toes and gold American Apparel paraphernalia (Halloween recycling, anyone?). This wasn't a hardcore show or the 1996 Vans Warped Tour — people came to the concert to dance and party with other Girl Talk fans. What gives, then, with the elbowing, shoving, and (I kid you not) head-butting that everyone seemed to be into on Thursday? When security tried to remove people from the stage to prevent injuries, they were met with beer bottle projectiles, crude comments and physical resistance, forcing the club's owners to shut the show down early.

Unfortunately for Girl Talk fans, our city won't be witnessing a second coming anytime soon. Mercy Lounge/Cannery Ballroom manager Andrew Mischke expressed distaste for the college-aged crowd's disrespect for the venue's structure and staff, saying that fans "forfeited the right to have shows like that" at the Cannery in the future. Mischke stated that Girl Talk's audience has recently "become a lot younger and a lot stupider," and that as a venue the Cannery Ballroom was "disappointed with the behavior of the patrons." Commenting on future booking plans, Mischke said the venue would have to either book shows to avoid attracting the same crowd (that's us) or spend more money hiring security to avoid a repeat of Thursday's debacle. After speaking to Gillis' team, Mischke also remarked that Girl Talk feels that after Thursday's show he needs to readjust his performance style to accommodate his changing audience and allow for more safety at his shows. Commenting on the actions of the largely college-age crowd, Mischke laughingly said, "We have shows and events, but we don't have out of control frat parties." ☾



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ART

JUST FOR FUN

Let's talk about 'Sex and the City' from a guy's eye view

BRANDON HERIFORD
Culture Editor

I am a sports-watching, protein-consuming man — but I watch "Sex and the City." Am I comfortable with this aspect of my life? Not completely. Yet, as one could imagine, I have some different, potentially stranger habits, but I will save those for another column ... or not. First things first, let's discuss the show.

My roommates hate it. At first I would secretly change the channel when I heard someone opening the front door or coming down the stairs. Then I became more open in my viewing, and my roommates became more skeptical of my sexuality. I'll admit, if they want to join me in some old-fashioned TV watching, I'll typically acquiesce to their demands and put on some SportsCenter, albeit against my will.

Why do I watch it? Well, one day this summer I was bored and "Sex and the City" was the lone HBO on Demand series whose episodes I had not previously exhausted. I thought that Sarah Jessica Parker was attractive enough, and after all, every episode does bear the nudity warning at its beginning.

At first I was skeptical. I'm pretty sure that during those first couple episodes I was extremely uncomfortable watching Samantha and Carrie discuss the intricacies of French-kissing their boyfriends. In all honesty, I'm still not too fond of the twice-an-episode group lunch meeting to discuss

being middle-aged, sexually frustrated single white females, yet I persevered.

Here is my opinion on the four ladies. First: Carrie Bradshaw, played by Sarah Jessica Parker. She's way too skinny and kind of obnoxious. Also, more often than not her clothes look like a trashy woman's Halloween costume, which is attractive ... on Halloween. Samantha Jones, played by Kim Cattrall, is quite frankly just a huge hussy; still, Jones accurately delivers the typical male's approach to a relationship — getting down. Kristin Davis plays Charlotte York, who is by far the most



sexandthecitymovie.com

attractive of the four. Charlotte is a naive, marriage-seeking airhead for the most part, but she has a significantly higher degree of moral fiber than her comrades, which might not be saying much. I hate Miranda Hobbes, played by Cynthia Nixon. Not only is she extremely overbearing and unattractive, but she looks like a pale, redheaded version of Gumby. Miranda's dominance of her ridiculously submissive and pathetic boyfriend Steve almost makes me want to vomit. As can be imagined, I'm a bigger fan of the Ed O'Neil, "Married with Children" approach to a relationship.

So, while I rip on these women, if they should even be called that, I do like the show. Big is a pretty sweet dude, and I personally think he should've stuck with that Natasha lady, whose bedpost probably has significantly fewer notches than Carrie's. Each individual episode's storyline is independent, yet the overarching themes allow for the viewer to appreciate the characters' similar approaches to varied, oftentimes weird, sexual encounters. Although the show is obviously geared toward women, the topics are usually discussed in raw enough detail to keep the male viewer entertained.

During the average show I'll oftentimes find myself smiling, only to then realize that I'm smiling and actively stop smiling so that I can retain some sense of dignity. But, gentlemen, give "Sex and the City" a chance, at least once. Next time you need to compromise with your girlfriend, offer watching an episode with her. At least it's not "Project Runway." ☞

BOOK

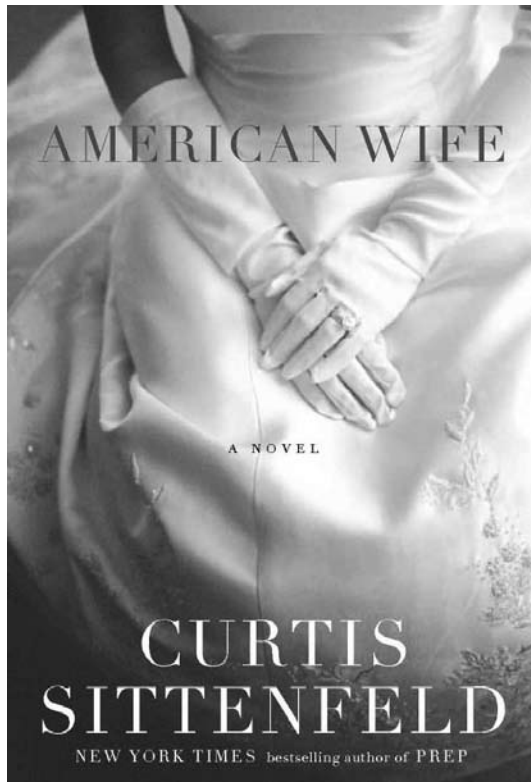
From 'Prep' to politics: Sittenfeld's latest novel

REANNE ZHENG
Staff Writer

This past September, Curtis Sittenfeld, author of "Prep" and "The Man of My Dreams," released the much anticipated and timely "American Wife." As anybody who has seen the distinctive pink and green cover of "Prep" might know, her first novel tells the story of an introverted but observant prep school teenager (Lee Fiora) who retells her high school years as a scholarship student among wealthier classmates. It was in this New York Times bestseller that the Sittenfeld heroine was born — the classic all-American voice, average or perhaps slightly privileged in background, that hovers on the periphery of glamorous characters but never joins the inner circle, as a result of either social or psychological drawbacks. Lee's socioeconomic level makes her an outsider, but it is her own psychological insecurity that truly leaves her at a disadvantage.

Her second book, *The Man of My Dreams* — a worthwhile, underappreciated read — tells the story of a more financially privileged protagonist, Hannah, and tracks the quintessential awkward girl through her college and early adult years as she deals with the emotional difficulties left by her parents' divorce. Sittenfeld's third novel, *American Wife*, chronicles the life of a Republican first lady, Alice Blackwell (see Lindgren), who bears a striking resemblance to our own first lady, as she reflects on the road that led her to the White House.

The book starts out as a marvelous testament to Sittenfeld's signature style. So far, so good. Sittenfeld leads the reader through Alice's childhood and adolescent years with a collection of vividly detailed and introspective memories. From the awkward romances of her teen years to the tragic, fatal car accident that is eerily similar to the current first lady's, her narrative remains insightful and addictive. The second part covers Alice's early adult years. Here Sittenfeld spins Alice's tale as simultaneously universal and deeply personal. The romantic life, though matured, remains splattered with convincing blemishes. After all, who can't at least sympathize with the meet-the-parents



enannansida.se

jitters, the subtle yet complex chemistry of a new relationship or the excitement of a whirlwind romance?

Up until this point, Sittenfeld, in spite of her staunch Democratic values, has portrayed her protagonist with only the most sympathetic and realistic of tones. Alice is by no means perfect — she makes her fair share of mistakes and questionable decisions — but the reader can identify with her on the most human of levels. Then Charlie Blackwell (the fictional version of George W. Bush) materializes. To be fair, portraying any figure with such a huge public persona as a believable fictional character is difficult. But in the last third of the book, the author's disapproval of W's politics overpowers the reasonable voice of Alice Blackwell. Most of America may very well agree with her, but at some point, Sittenfeld abandons the character for which she is best known and turns the narrative sour. While it certainly does not render the entire novel worthless, readers are advised to enjoy the first half and possibly abandon ship before it turns into an op-ed piece. ☞

FOOD

Unwrap some Vosges Haut-Chocolat

ANA ALVAREZ
Staff Writer

Sometimes Vanderbilt students feel pressured to follow the conventional, upper-class career paths of lawyers, doctors or businesspersons. But look at Katrina Markoff, a Vanderbilt alumna who followed a unique and tasty route to becoming a successful entrepreneur. Markoff, now chocolatier and owner of Vosges Haut-Chocolat, provides useful insight for anyone to follow his or her dreams.

It was at Vanderbilt where Markoff recognized her love for cooking, and she developed her culinary skills by catering for her sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma. After graduation, she pursued a career in Le Cordon Bleu, a culinary school in Paris, France.

"When I went to L'Ambroisie, a three-star restaurant, that was when I fell in love with chocolate," Markoff says.

After a year and a half, Markoff continued her education with an apprenticeship in Spain under the guidance of Fernando Adria.

"Spain was radically different from France, which was extremely conservative. Whereas France was formal and buttoned-up, Spain was experimental. It changed my whole life," Markoff said. "Adria had a very avant-garde approach to food. He really taught me how to think outside of the box. We made chicken and curry, ice cream with salt, and quail eggs candied with sugar. He said to me, 'Don't waste time going to the same restaurants. Travel and use your imagination to guide you.' So I went east for the next months to Australia and Southeast Asia. I wandered around, and the inspiration I received from other people and their connections evolved into Vosges."

Although a classroom may provide an excellent formal education, one should look to the outside world for even increased knowledge.

"People need to see the world and travel as much as they can when they're younger. I think that is so key," says Markoff.

"Don't do the right thing just because your parents and your friends tell you so. Be your own person and follow your instincts. Do not be fearful."

Vosges' secret ingredient is, well, the ingredients. Markoff personally chooses ingredients from the countries selected as the theme of her collections and imports them directly to her Chicago bakery. When asked what her favorite ingredient has been thus far, Markoff immediately answered that she loves curry. Curry is the main ingredient in the first chocolate she ever created, the Naga.

"I wanted to pay homage to the Nagaland people of Northeastern India. At that time, they were in conflict because missionaries, Hindus and others were telling them to be what they were not. I believe that people can be made more aware of religion and culture through the movement of chocolate," she says.

The next time you are heading to the bookstore or Nectar for a candy bar, pass on the Twix. Instead, dust off your wallet and support Markoff's Vosges Haut-Chocolat. Markoff's carefully chosen ingredients will certainly provide a welcome relief from the processed chocolate you're used to. However, while enjoying the unique flavors and fusions, remember this special Vandy alum's story. Don't confine yourself to the unadventurous career paths of your predecessors. Follow your dreams, and your pallet, and you won't go wrong. ☞



flickr.com

FASHION

American Apparel reigns the world of leggings and more

OLIVIA KUPFER
Staff Writer

You must have lived under a rock for the past five years if you haven't heard of American Apparel. I'd argue that on a typical Friday night at Vandy's campus, a majority of co-eds sport at least one item from this popular clothier. In fact, American Apparel has become the new uniform for today's adolescent, hipster set. Whether it's the clothing's competitive pricing or the company's provocative advertising campaigns, all of which feature attractive young women in questionable poses, American Apparel's recipe has proven to be both highly successful and profitable.

This sweatshop-free clothing manufacturer began as a small-scale wholesaler of t-shirts and leggings in the late '90s and expanded into the retail market in 2000. American Apparel operates its own manufacturing facility in downtown Los Angeles, deciding against cutting costs by outsourcing its labor. Although the company has

taken an alternative route in the fashion world, American Apparel is highly profitable and has experienced one of the most rapid retail store expansions in American history. The brand's success and business model, a combination of social advocacy (i.e. the company's recent "legalize L.A." campaign to support U.S. immigration rights) and a no-nonsense product (contemporary basics at reasonable prices that are both fashionable and comfortable) is a pioneer in the fashion world. Furthermore, the company manages to combine style, social consciousness and retro appeal in all of its garments.

So what to expect with your American Apparel experience? Well, if you need to find appropriate clothing for an '80s aerobic class, or maybe an '80s-themed frat party, look no further. Yes, there are more toned-down options, like the black, high waist micro-fiber skirt, which has been very popular this season. Another option is American Apparel's iridescent silver leggings, which make such a bold statement that they may be a little too loud for class.

The company has expanded its product line for both men and women so that while the company continues to sell to wholesalers (i.e. they make great fraternity/sorority t-shirts), they also offer kids' clothing, retro sunglasses and chain-link jewelry. The products may prove to not have staying power in the future (hey, leggings have to go out of style some day), but for the time being, American Apparel is the brand of the moment. And although you may question why your shiny leggings have a \$45 price tag (which seems a little pricey for polyester) remember they really do wonders for your backside. ☞



21stcenturywaves.com

VAMPIRE WEEKEND

This week, Culture Editor Courtney Rogers got the chance to talk to the lead singer of the indie-rock band Vampire Weekend, Ezra Koenig. Ezra shared his thoughts on musical collaboration, Chromeo and the legendary Crosby and Nash.



photos by SARAH BUCKLEY / flickr.com

LETTER FROM AN ANGRY WASP

Each week, our resident Angry WASP sounds off on things that make him buzz. (see what we did there?)



Dear People Who Say "Hey Girl Hey,"

Oh, how obnoxious you are. I cringe every time I hear that stupid phrase. It is perhaps the only thing that stings my ears worse than that "hola chica" that's somehow strung out in the "I took four years of Spanish and this is what I've got left" accent. I didn't think it was possible, but every time I hear someone utter those three words (which are really just two words), I actually lose little bits of my soul.

Do you all even realize where that phrase came from? I looked it up: It's from some girl who was a contestant on Tila Tequila's show. As in, 'Internet entrepreneur' (read: adult Web site owner) and most-popular-person-on-MySpace (read: sketchy softcore almost-adult-Web site) Tila Tequila. So let's consider this: You've really decided that the next big phrase is from an off shoot contestant of a reality show created by a porn star? Really?

I realize there's not a whole lot of inspiration these days for catch phrases — it's not like there are clever things you could reference, or normal greetings that would suffice. No, it's much better and easier to instantly fit in by calling out the quick "hey girl hey," isn't it? And if you can't think of how to respond or something to say, why keep your mouth shut and be seen as pensive or, good lord, intelligent? Just shout out the three magic words and you will be topical, hilarious and popular. Of course.

Is there any way we can cut down on the use of this really annoying and stupid phrase? Because currently it's really like taking a cheese grater to my sanity. Thanks.

Sincerely,
An Angry WASP

VERSUS MAGAZINE: I had a question about your music videos: Does the band come up with the ideas or is it like a collaboration with the director?

EZRA KOENIG: It's been both for the different videos. Our first video that we made which is kind of like our cheapest, simplest one for Mansard Roof we almost made ourselves. We collaborated with a friend and we didn't have much of an idea. We just jumped on somebody's boat and took this old camera. But for the "A-Punk" video — that concept was almost entirely created by the directors Hammer and Tongs. I mean, I communicated with them earlier with these ideas about color and atmosphere, but they came up with the rest. And then for the last two that we've done with director Richard Ayode, that was pretty collaborative, too. And he's directed videos for Arctic Monkeys and he's worked on British television so he has a lot of experience. ... We came with small ideas like maybe the camera's moving all the time, maybe it takes place in this kind of world and then we would go back and forth. So it's been a mixture, and we like collaborating with directors but we also like when they have their own ideas.

VM: You all have so many different styles in your music. How did you incorporate that and collaborate without clashing?

EK: I think for us it was pretty natural. I mean we all kind of grew up listening to so many styles of music it made sense to put it together. But at the same time, I think sometimes you get an idea that two things would sound good together but really it just doesn't work. So whenever we felt like something felt awkward or forced we wouldn't really pursue it. We would only kind of go ahead with the ideas that made sense, so a lot of our songs came together very quickly.

VM: What do you guys think in general of people that remix your music? Do you guys get to hear remixes or do they do it without your permission? How do you guys feel about that?

EK: Well, a lot of them have been done without permission. We've been very kind of careful only to let people that we really admire do official remixes. But it's always cool to hear unofficial ones too. I'm really excited about the (Chromeo) remix of "The Kids Don't Stand a Chance" that's going to come out I think next week and because I've known those guys for a while. I really am a huge fan of them.

VM: How do you feel coming all this way and having so much success in the past year?

EK: A lot's changed since the beginning of the year for us. It's kind of hard to have perspective on it because we've kind of been on tour nonstop. Actually, I've been home so little; I spend all of my time traveling and performing. We notice differences of course. The shows get bigger and people know the words more, but it's still a little bit hard to fully comprehend it. But I can definitely say that I've been very happy in the way that our audience has grown, and not from a numerical standpoint — just that the type of people who come to shows. You definitely get people who are in no way the kind of old images of an indie rock listener. You know, we get people who probably are extremely mainstream, we get people who are in their 50s and 60s sometimes, like little kids — it's all across the board. So I've been happy to see how the audience has changed in that way.

VM: I read that you met while attending Columbia University. Did you guys think that you would play music while being students there?

EK: Well, I've always had bands even since ... I was 12, so I always knew music would be a part of my life in some way but, you know, I also knew that graduating I was going to have to pay back my loans and, you know, the typical college story. So my dream was always that I'd graduate, get a job, play music in my spare time and that one day I would get to, at least briefly, do music full time, and that's what happened. I graduated, I did Teach for America and I taught eighth grade in Brooklyn. ... After school I'd jump on the bus, record, we would play shows in New York as much as we could and then, you know, it worked out that we were able to record our own album and start talking to record labels, and I was able to transition into doing this full time. So I guess in some ways the things I imagined in college kind of came to pass.

VM: I recently read that you got a chance to perform with Crosby and Nash — how was that experience for you?

EK: Well, that was really great and surprising. I mean we were doing this rally for a Music for Democracy organization, and we knew that Crosby and Nash were going to be there but we didn't know how involved they would be, and they turned out to be super nice. They came backstage, and they asked us if we would sing with them, and they like brought us out onstage. ... We kind of grew up listening to them, and so to meet them and perform that song again was a nice experience. And it's cool to see that these guys who kind of came out of, you know such a unique era of the '60s, they're still very politically active and still using their music as a force for good. So yeah, it was a very cool experience.



FLIP SIDE

OVERHEARD

Some people on this campus just don't think before they speak. Sometimes we are lucky enough to overhear what they say.



Compiled from the Facebook group "Overheard at Vanderbilt"



Girl: "Oh my God, there's no more bagel bites left — WHY?! I WANT MY BAGEL BITES! I NEED MY BAGEL BITES!"

Rando: "Hey, remember that show 'Hey Arnold?' I used to think Helga was kind of hot ... is that weird?"

Guy: "I wish I was in Vietnam."

Girl: "I feel really bad for McCain. Obama should just give him a job cleaning out the White House trash or something."

TA: "The pimping is different than the prostitution."

Professor: "Bacteria move in order to eat and in order to mate."

Girl: "Sounds like most guys."

Girl: "There's nothing worse than putting something in your ear and then putting it in your mouth by accident."

Guy in organic lab: "Make sure you use your foil suits when handling the lava."

Guy talking to the RA: "Can I have the handicapped room if I get 'sexiled' an inordinate number of times?"

Girl: "I don't use coupons. It's embarrassing."

Guy: "I just get Obama and Tiger Woods mixed up a lot."



PHOTOS: www.flickr.com

HOROSCOPES



SCORPIO 10/23-11/21:

OMG being a Scorpio is sooooo great because we're sooooo awesome. Yeah, shut up.



SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21:

If the name Ro*tiki makes you think of the sound Jawas make in Star Wars, you are a nerd ... but also kind of awesome.



CAPRICORN 12/22-1/19:

When you think about it, isn't rush just dating freshman boys? Sounds totally hetero.



AQUARIUS 1/20-2/18:

Unicorns vs. Gravity: you might think Unicorns would win, but which one still exists? Yeah, the last time you saw a unicorn it was getting sucked into a black hole. By gravity.



PISCES 2/19-3/20:

Pisces: The world didn't end on Tuesday, did it? Huh. Weird.



ARIES 3/21-4/19:

If life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Then mix with vodka and you've got a party.



TAURUS 4/20-5/20:

Watch your semantics while traveling. Consider: in a developing country, is "Get Well Soon" a card or a to-do list?



GEMINI 5/21-6/21:

Now that it's cold out, you have no excuse for that outfit.



CANCER 6/22-7/22:

You are the mayor of bad decision town.



LEO 7/23-8/22:

You're really more like a senator of bad decision land.



VIRGO 8/23-9/22:

Beware of Facebook video. You thought pictures were bad...



LIBRA 9/23-10/22:

Don't worry: I hear the voices too.

The Buzz is "No More Fuzz!"

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